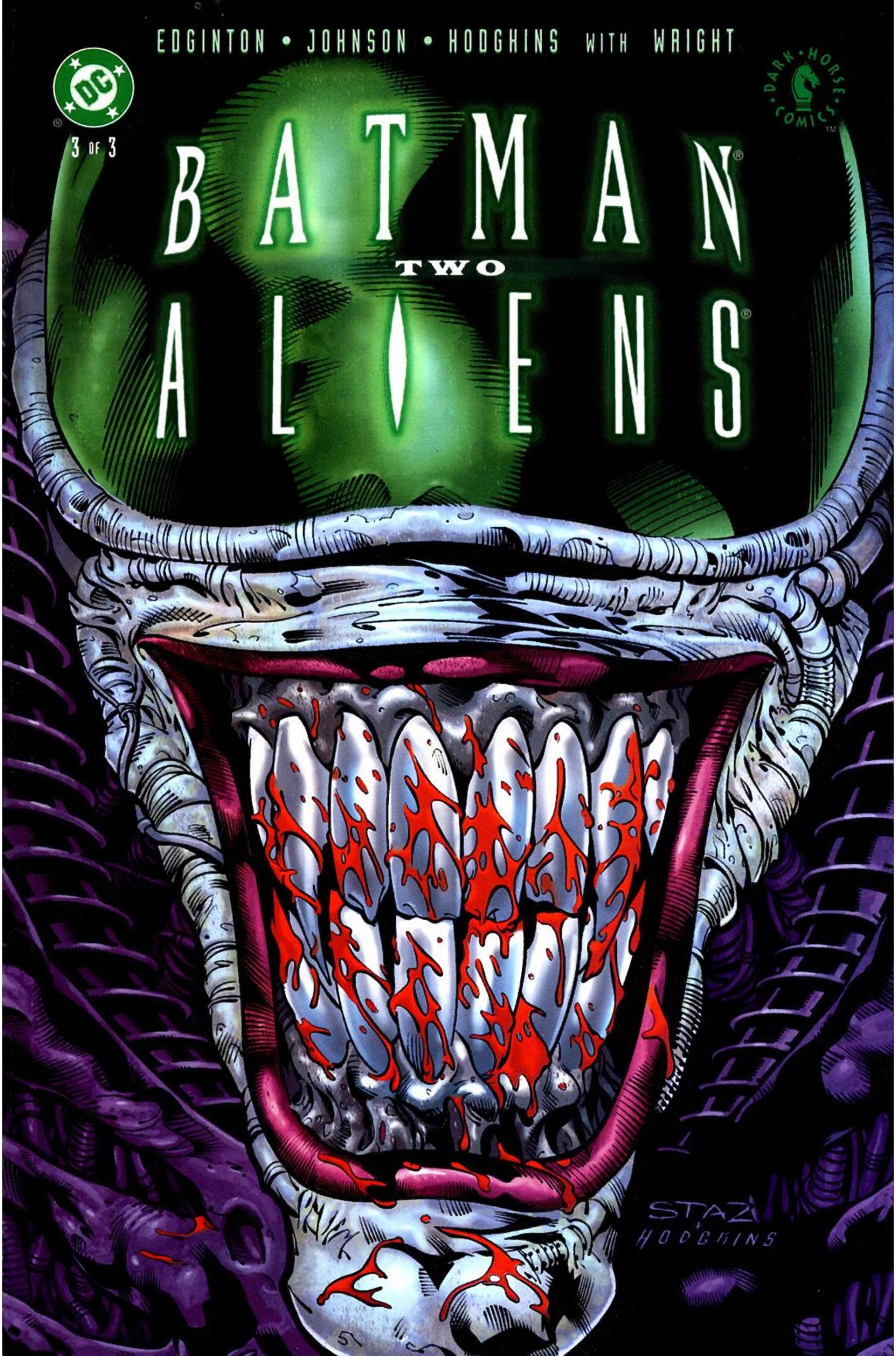
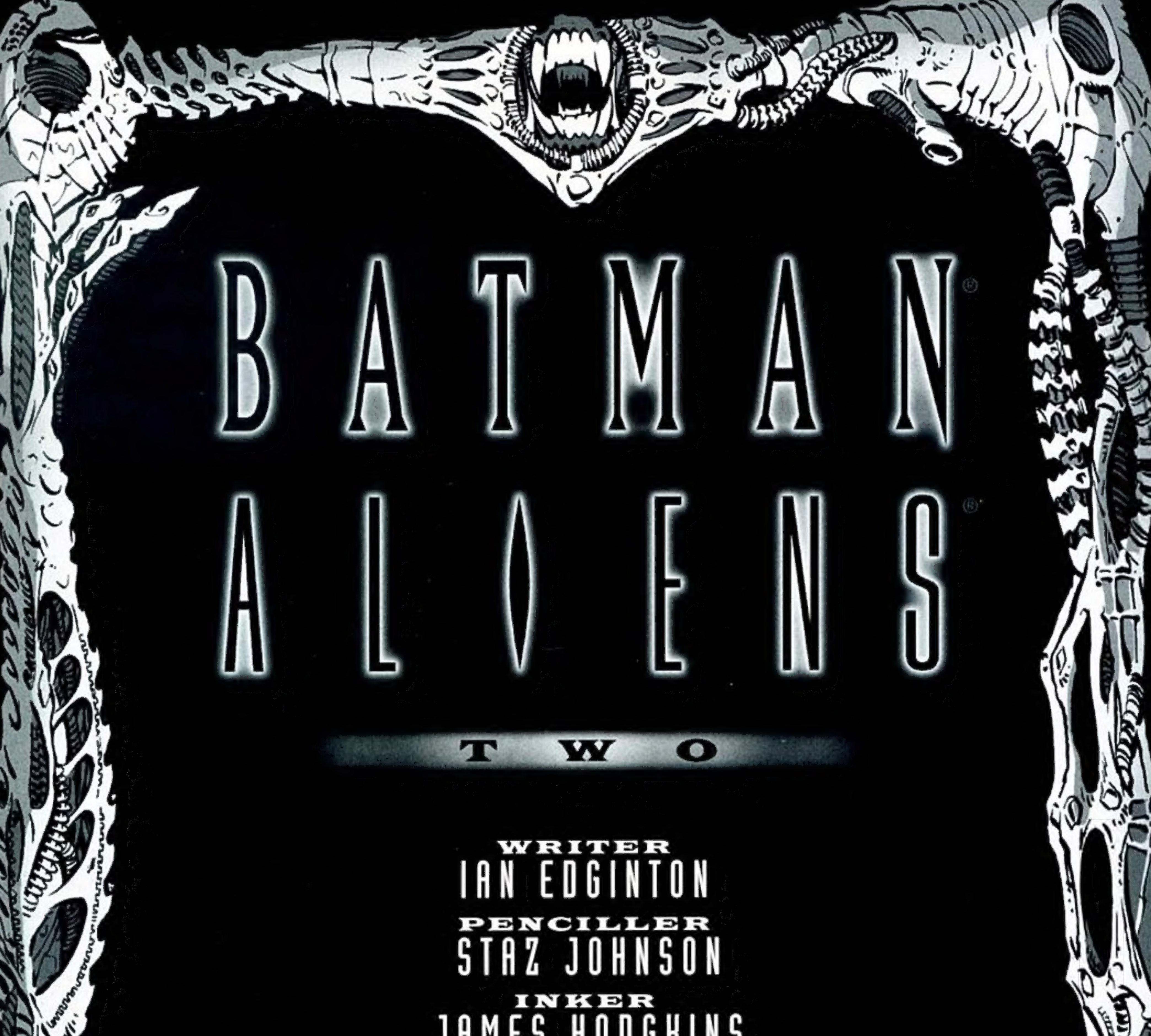
EDGINTON • JOHNSON • HODGKINS with WRIGHT

3 OF 3

BATMAN® TWO ALIENS®


STAZ
HODGKINS



BATMAN®
ALIENS®
TWO

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BATMAN CREATED BY **BOB KANE**

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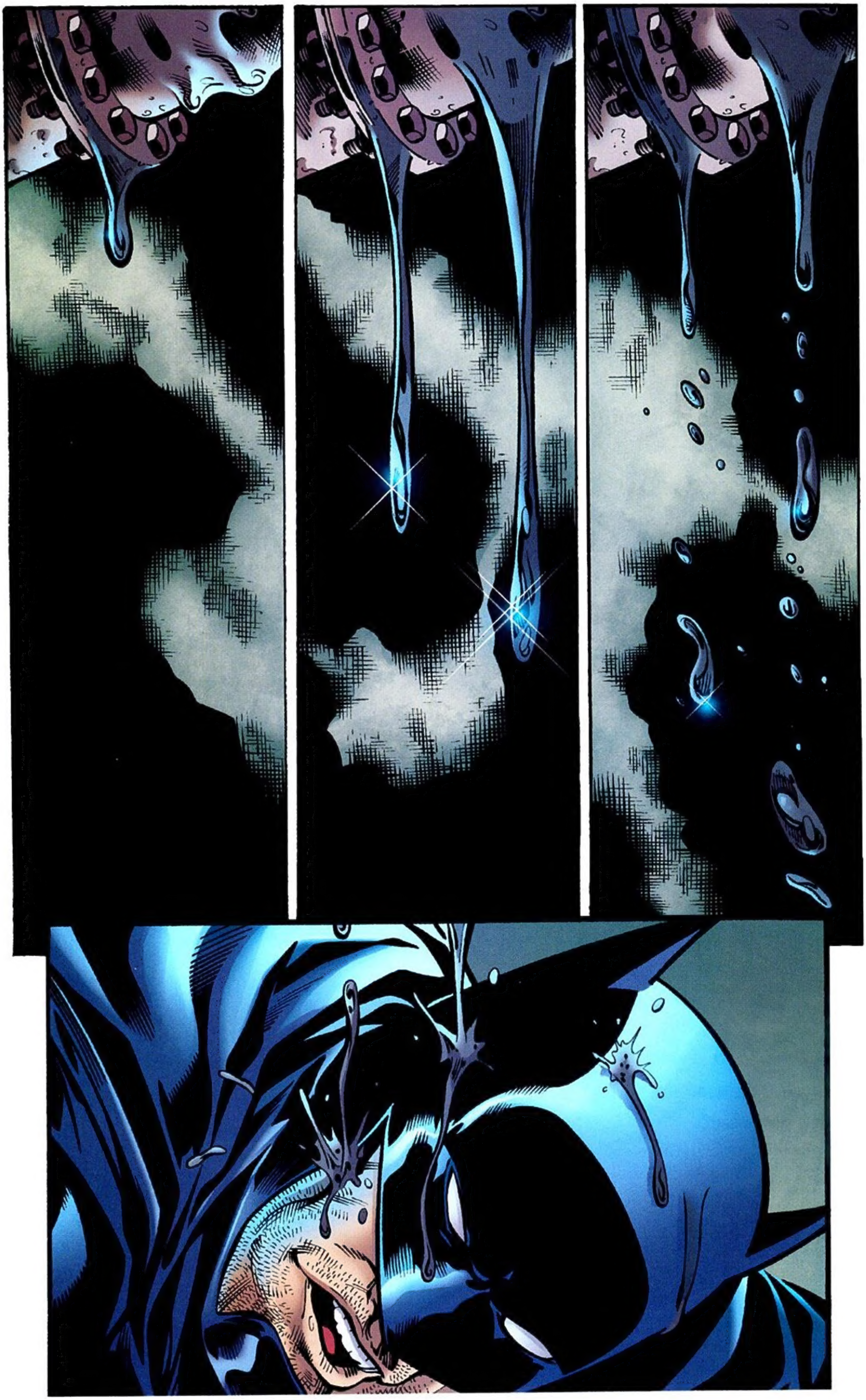
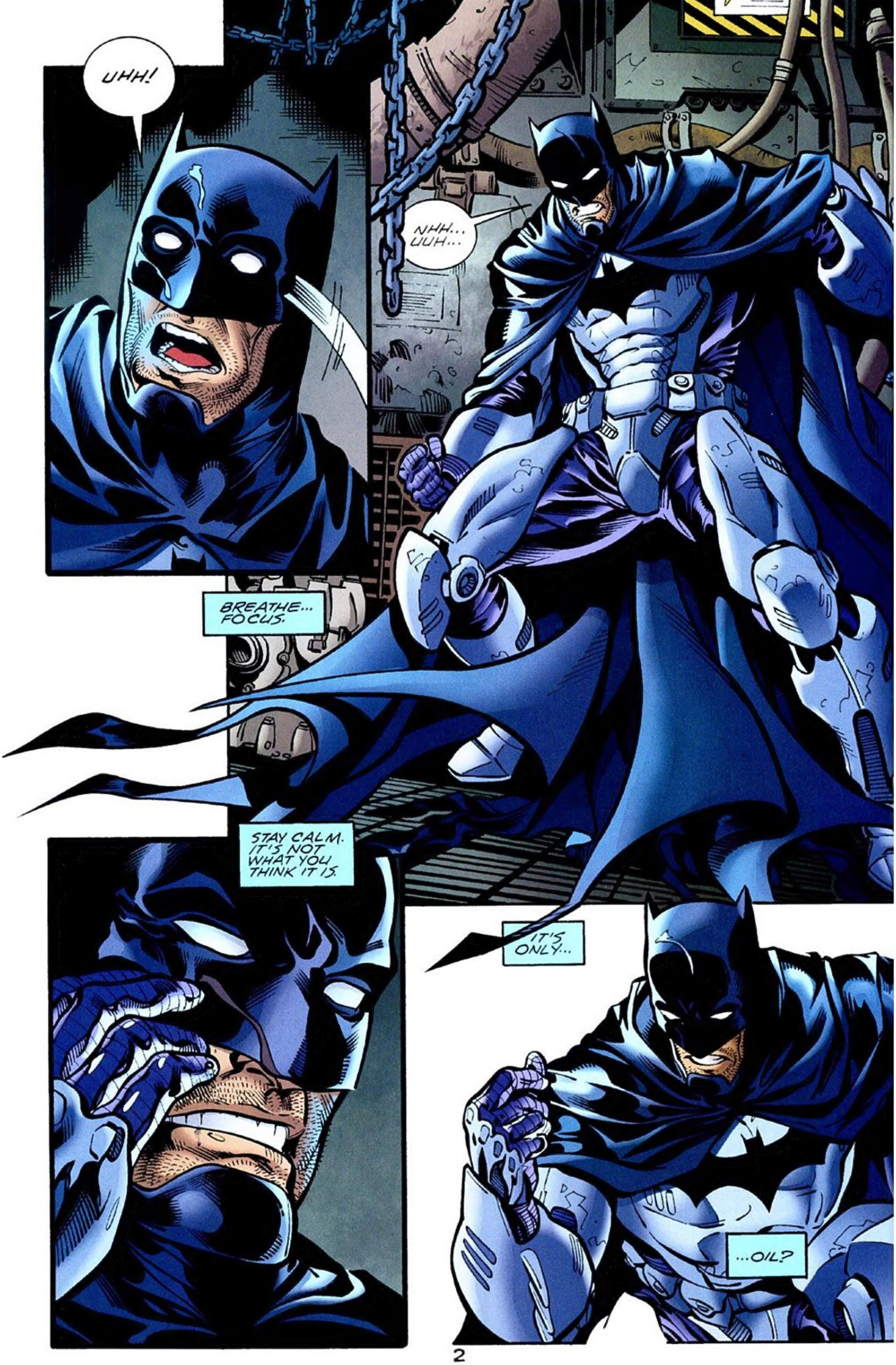
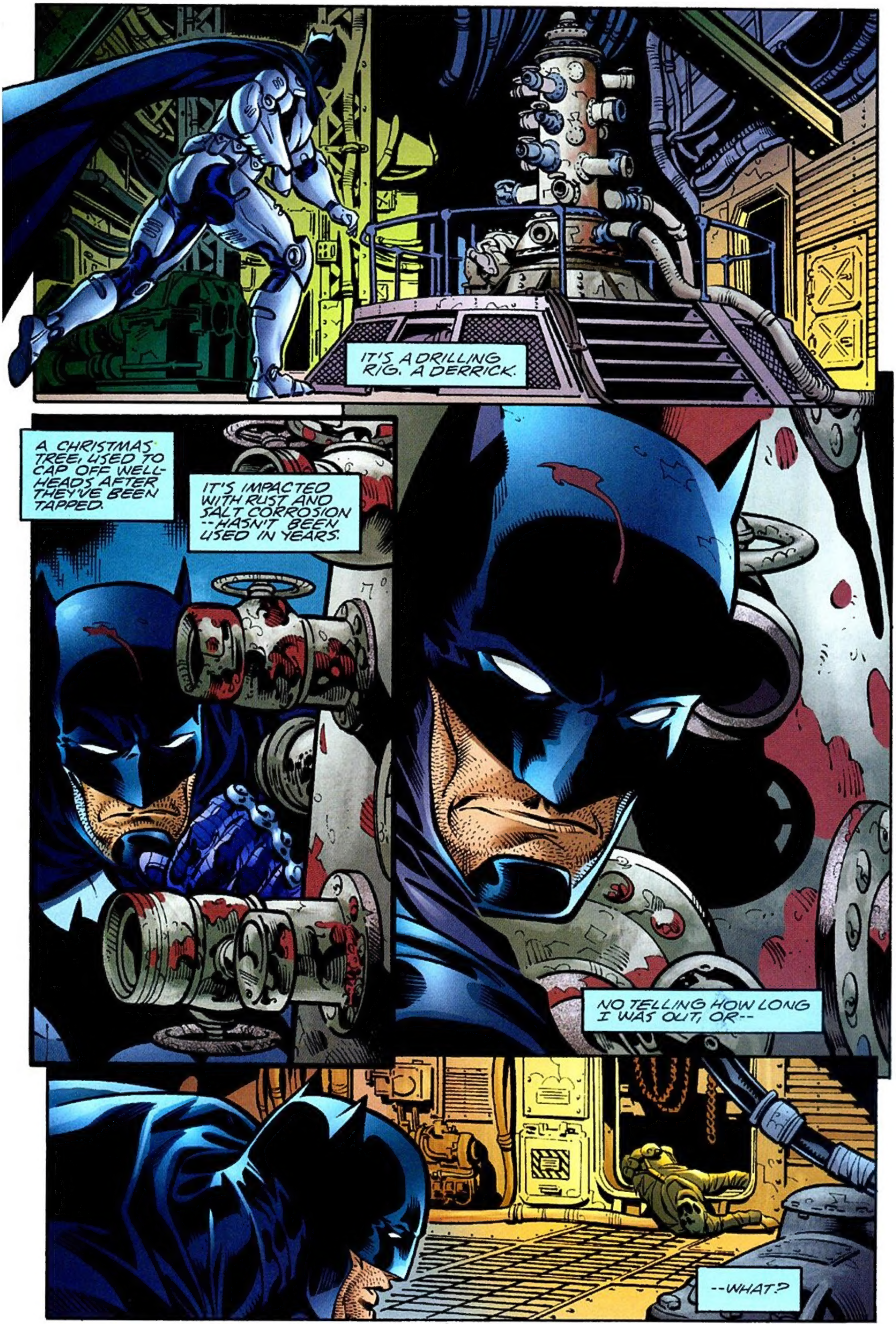
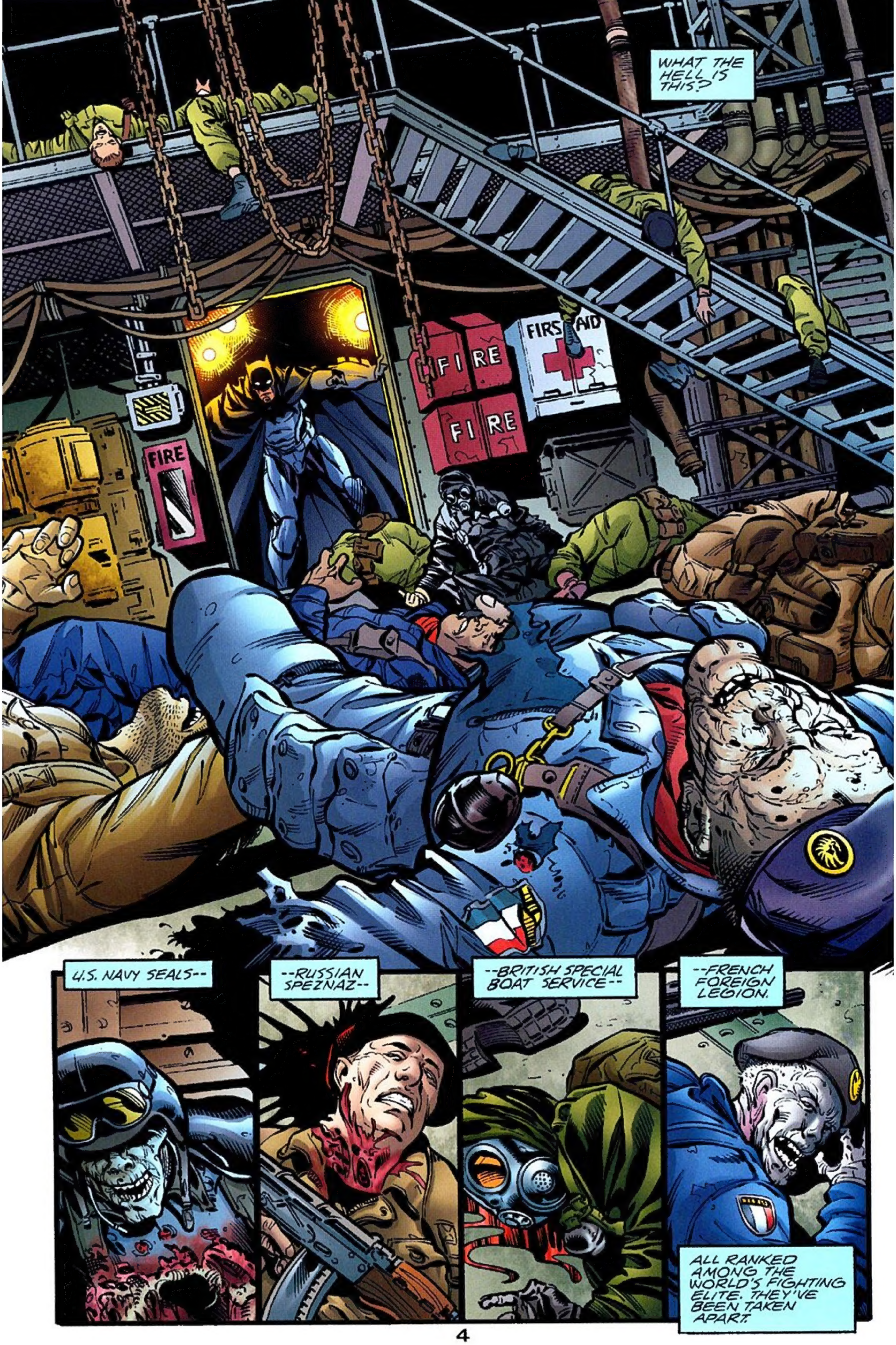
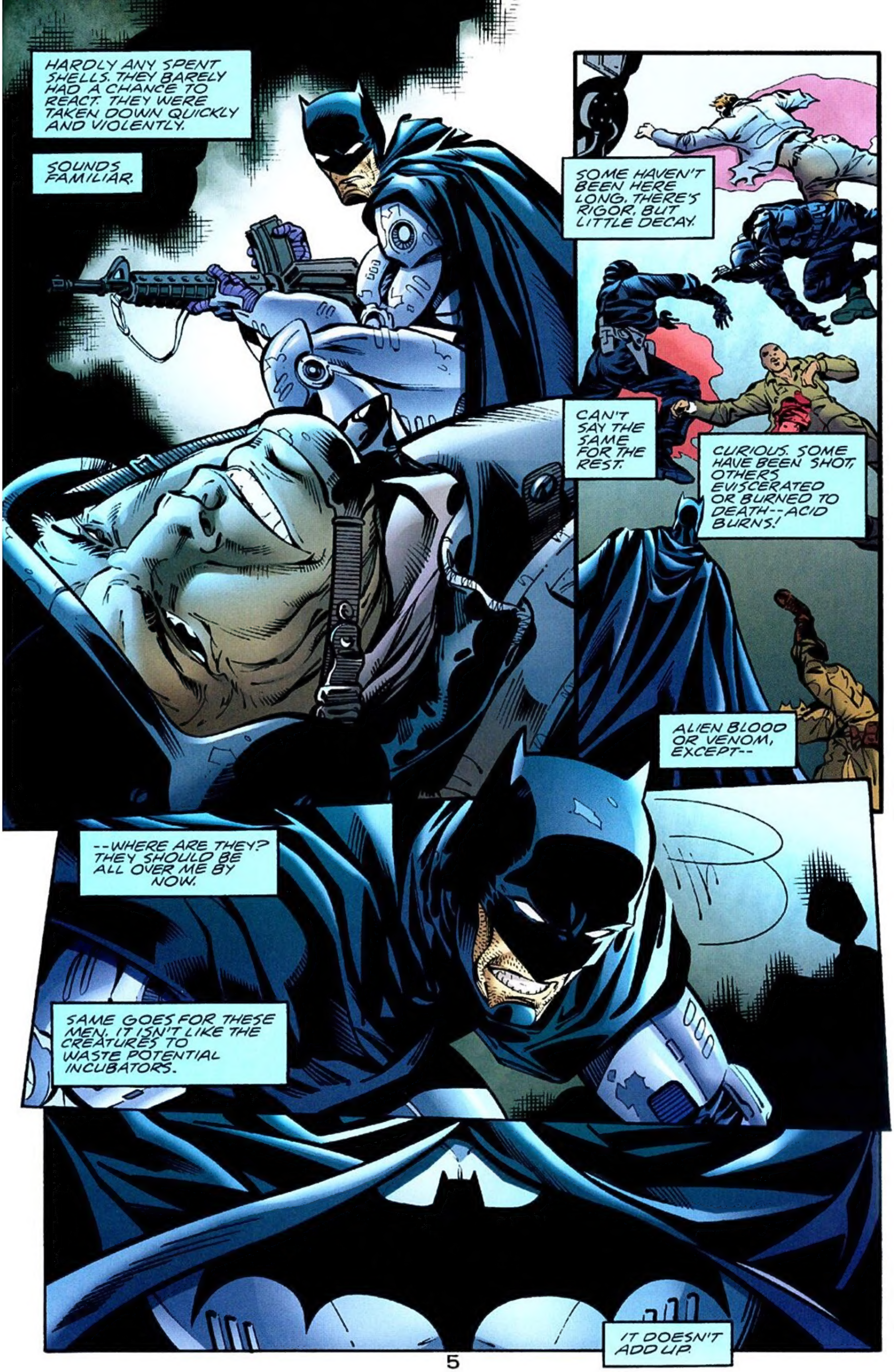
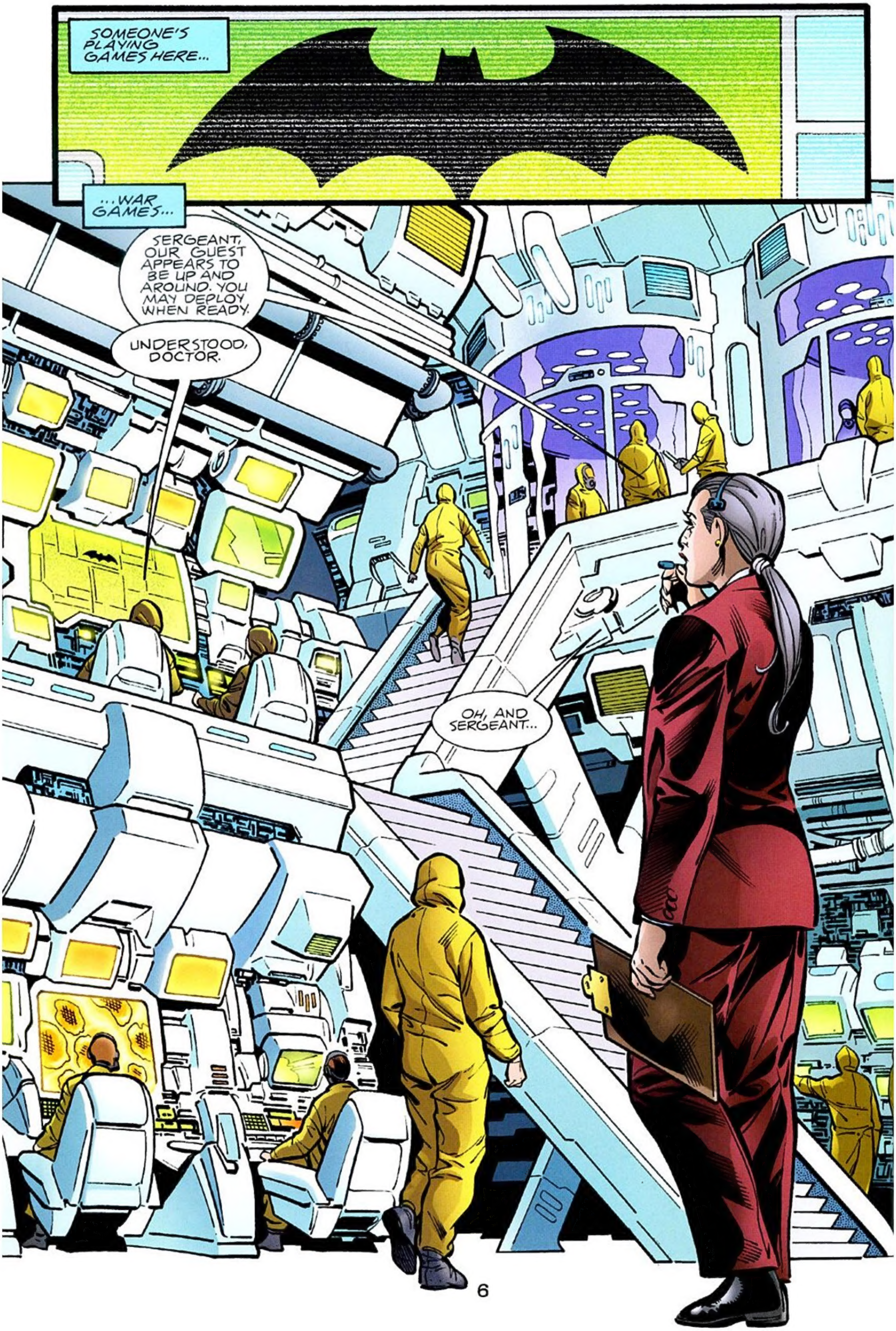


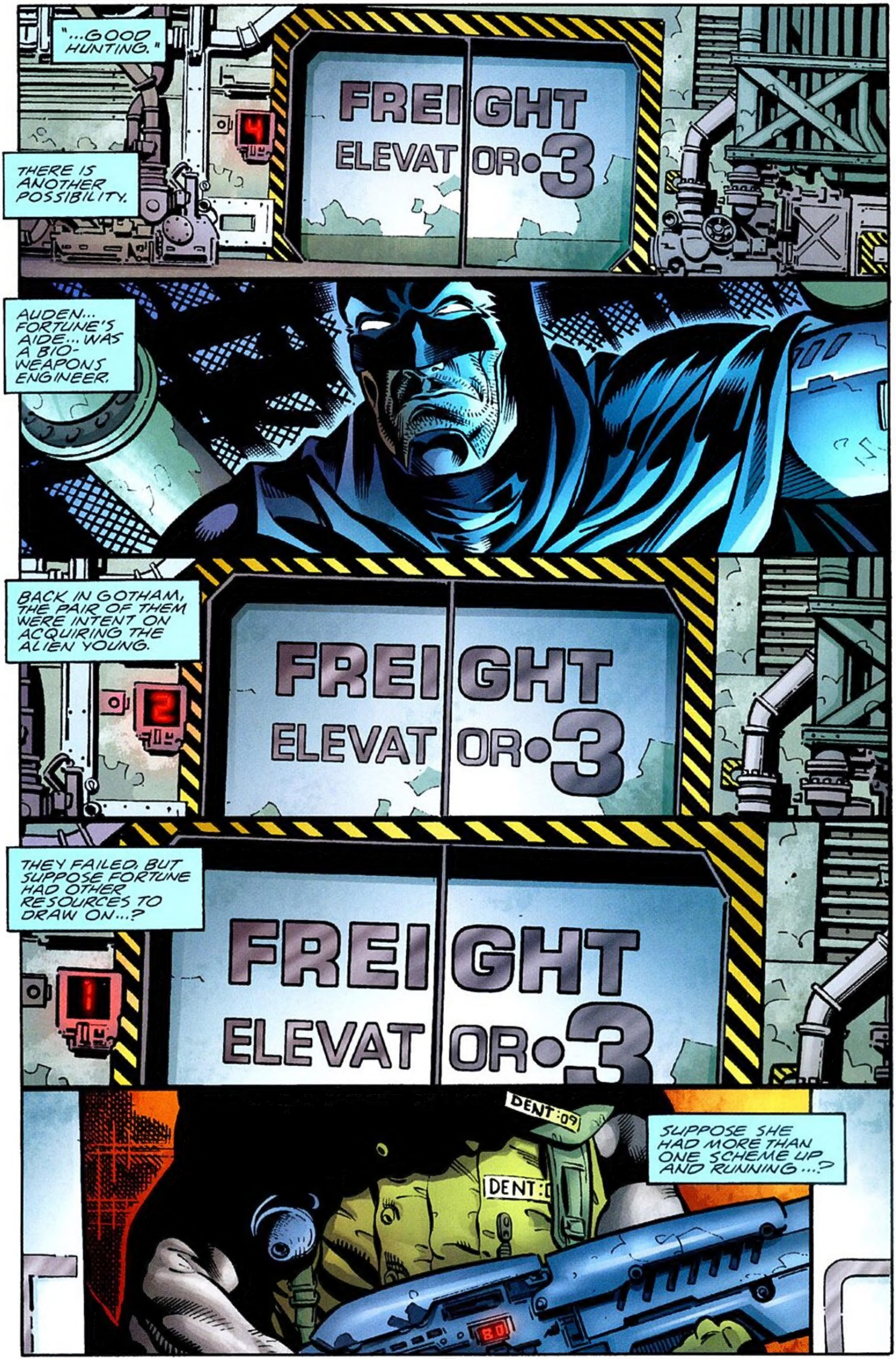

UHH!
NHH... UUH...
BREATHE... FOCUS.
STAY CALM. IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK IT IS.
IT'S ONLY...
...OIL?

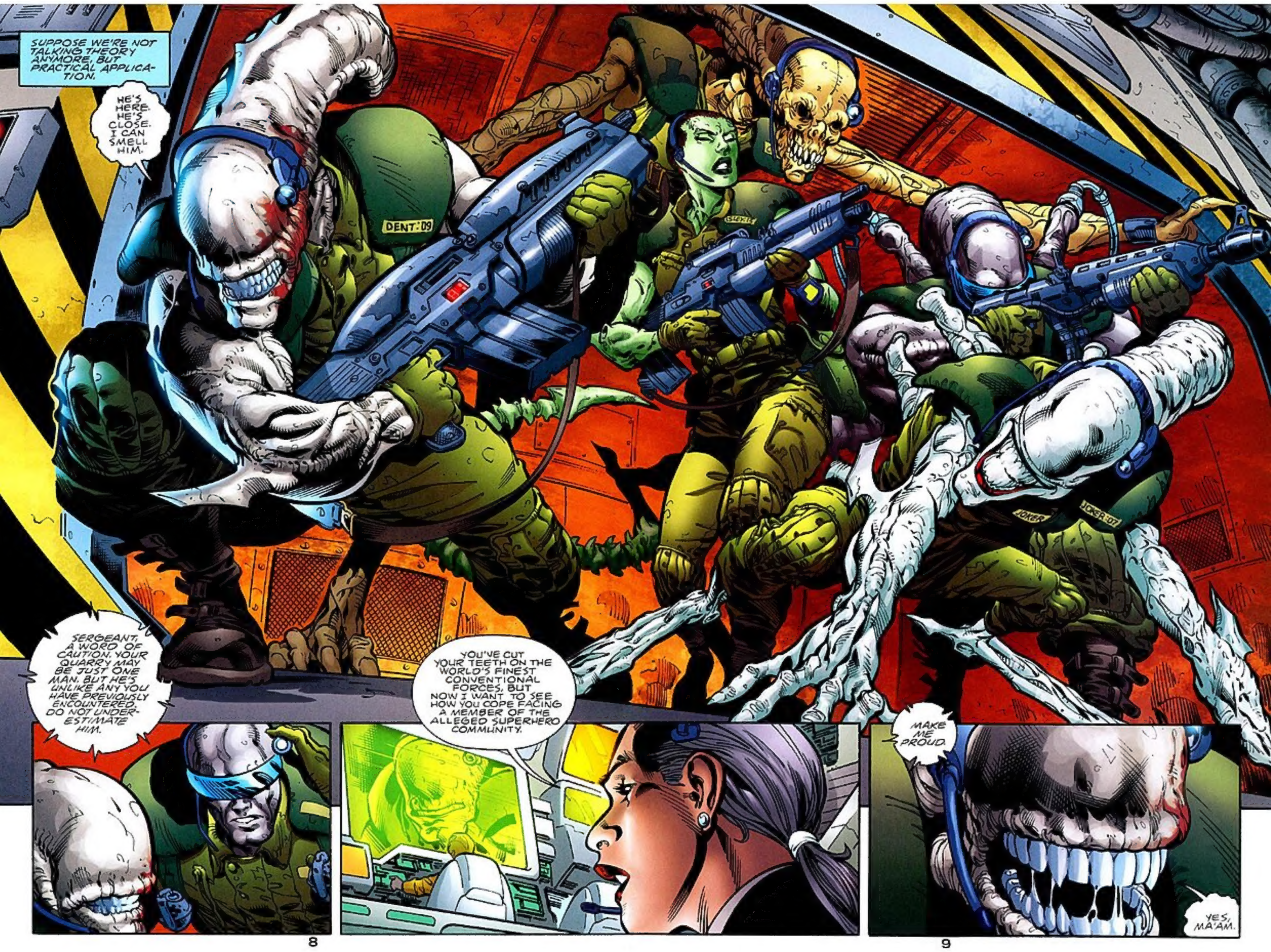

IT'S A DRILLING RIG. A DERRICK.
A CHRISTMAS TREE, USED TO CAP OFF WELL-HEADS AFTER THEY'VE BEEN TAPPED.
IT'S IMPACTED WITH RUST AND SALT CORROSION --HASN'T BEEN USED IN YEARS.
NO TELLING HOW LONG I WAS OUT, OR--
--WHAT?

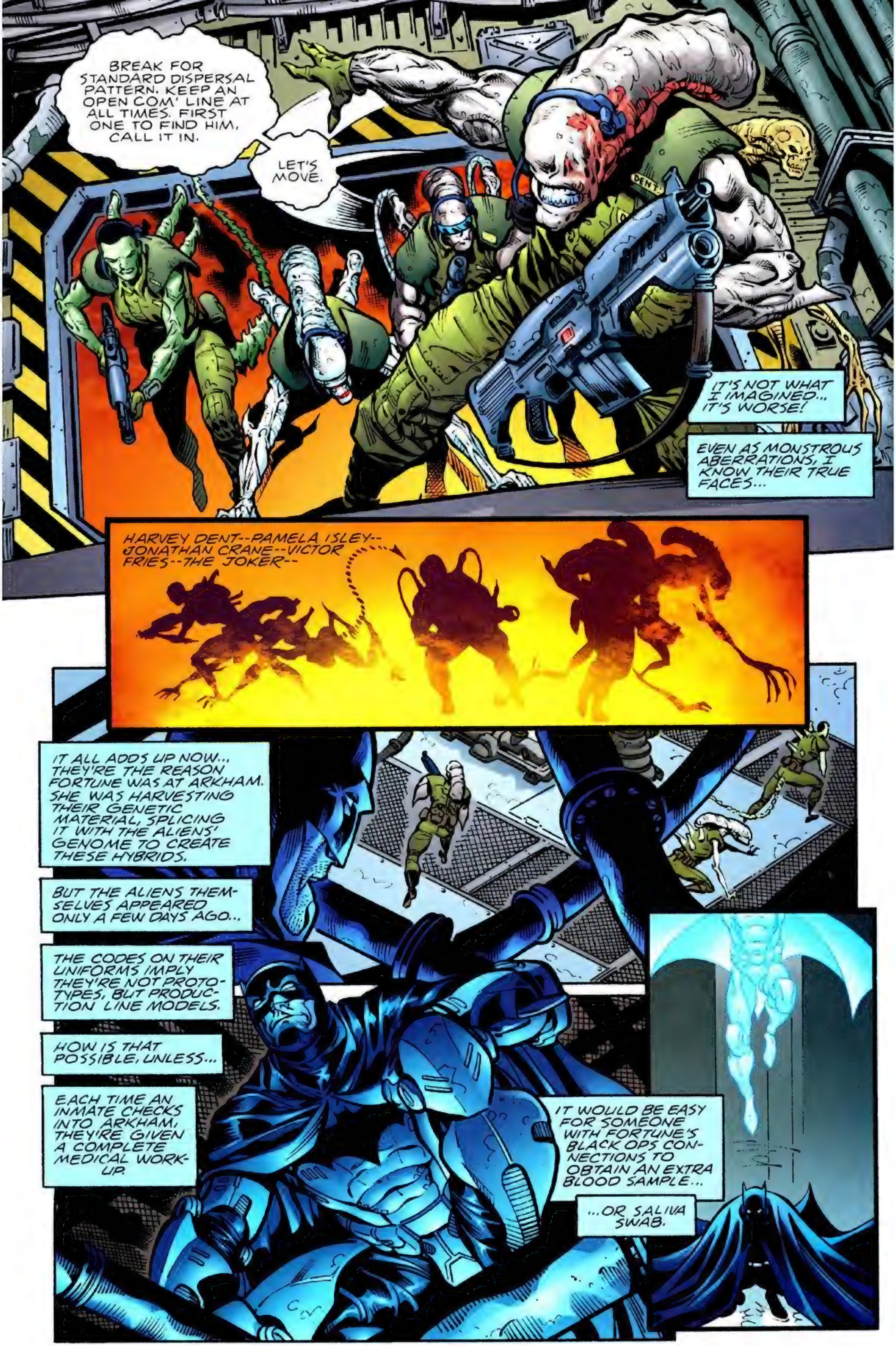

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
FIRE
FIRE
FIRS AID
FIRE
U.S. NAVY SEALS--
--RUSSIAN SPEZNAZ--
--BRITISH SPECIAL BOAT SERVICE--
--FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION.
ALL RANKED AMONG THE WORLD'S FIGHTING ELITE. THEY'VE BEEN TAKEN APART.

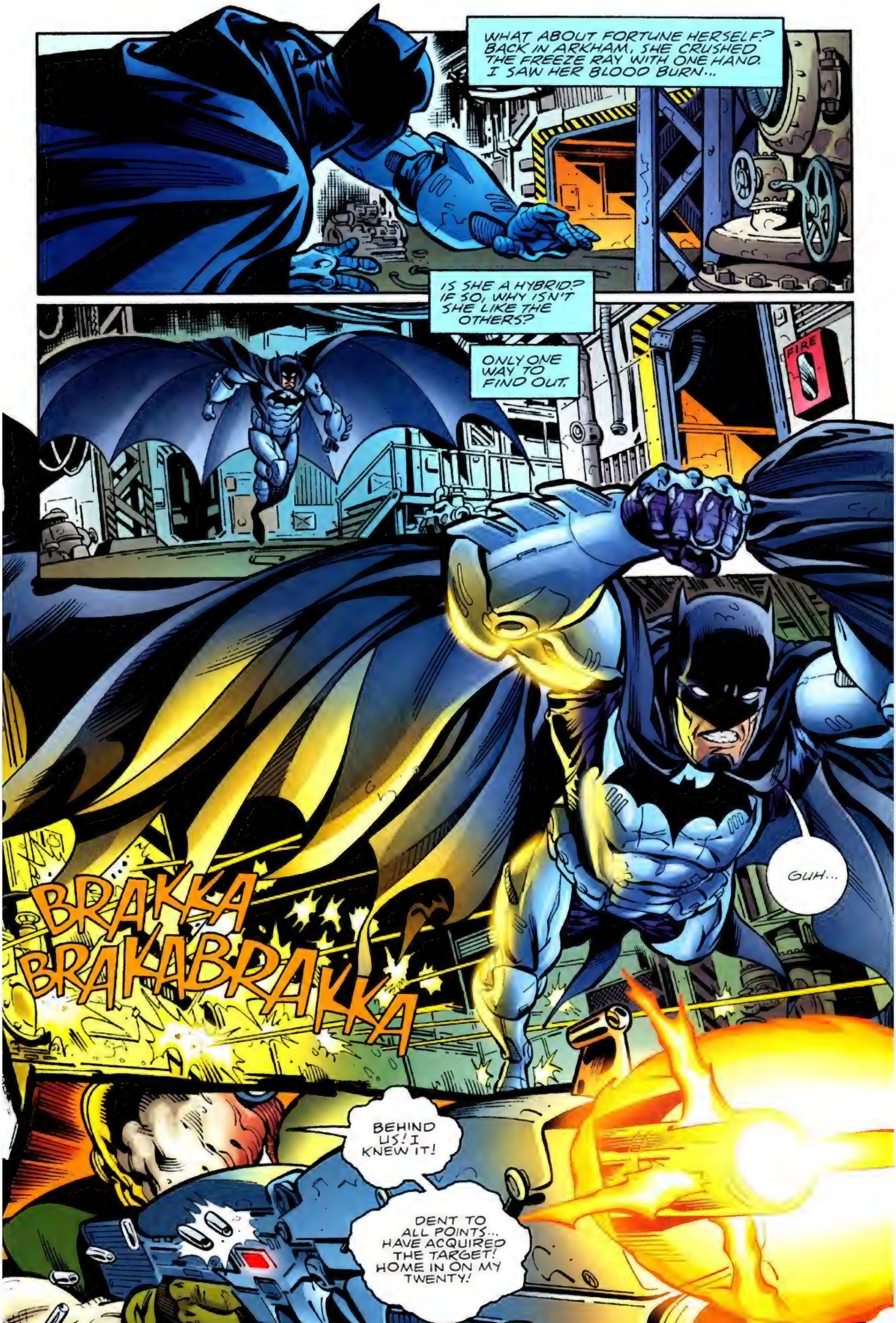

HARDLY ANY SPENT SHELLS. THEY BARELY HAD A CHANCE TO REACT. THEY WERE TAKEN DOWN QUICKLY AND VIOLENTLY.
SOUNDS FAMILIAR.
SOME HAVEN'T BEEN HERE LONG. THERE'S RIGOR, BUT LITTLE DECAY.
CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR THE REST.
CURIOUS. SOME HAVE BEEN SHOT, OTHERS EVISCERATED OR BURNED TO DEATH--ACID BURNS!
ALIEN BLOOD OR VENOM, EXCEPT--
--WHERE ARE THEY? THEY SHOULD BE ALL OVER ME BY NOW.
SAME GOES FOR THESE MEN. IT ISN'T LIKE THE CREATURES TO WASTE POTENTIAL INCUBATORS.
IT DOESN'T ADD UP.

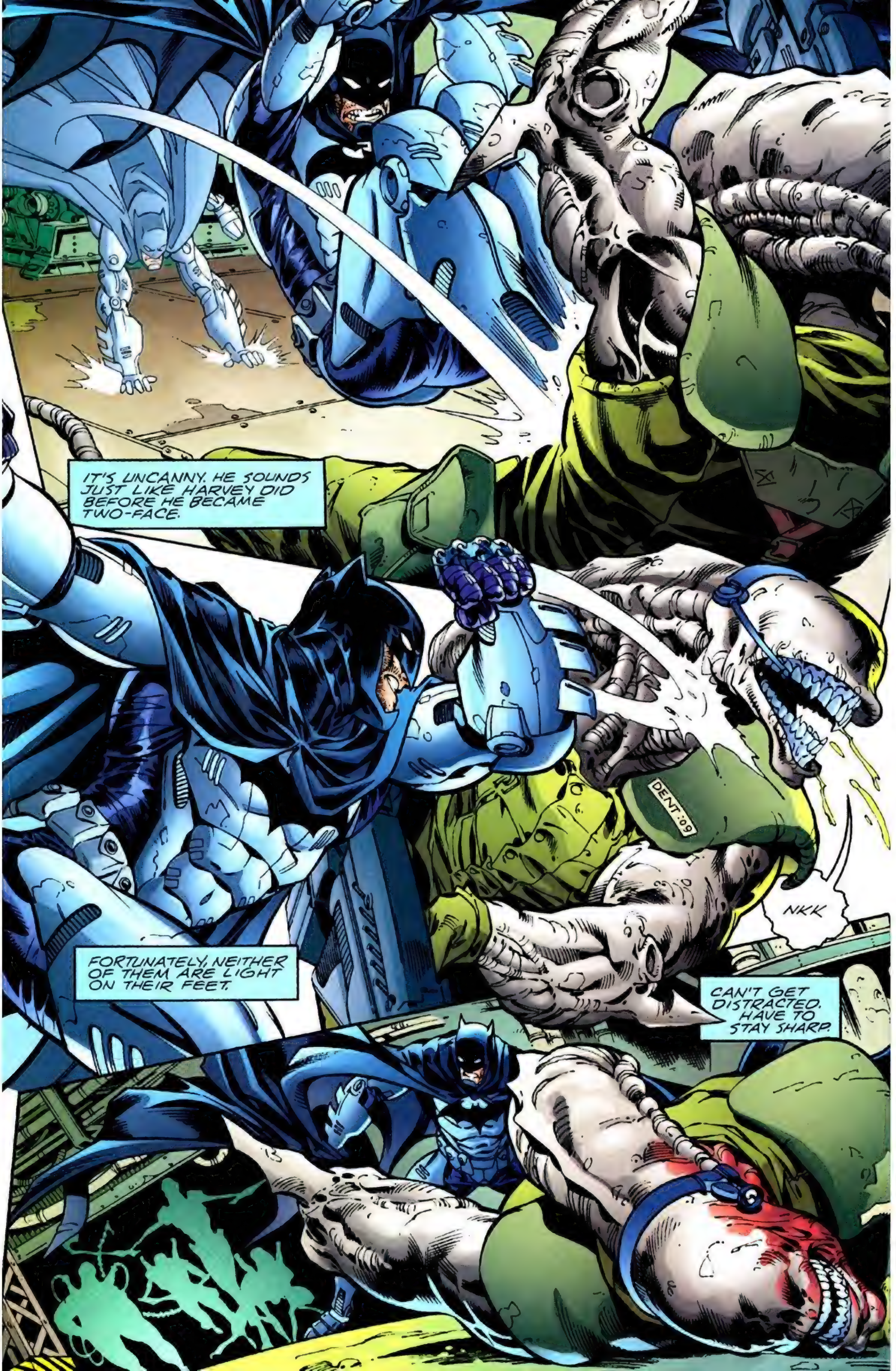

SOMEONE'S PLAYING GAMES HERE...
...WAR GAMES...
SERGEANT, OUR GUEST APPEARS TO BE UP AND AROUND. YOU MAY DEPLOY WHEN READY.
UNDERSTOOD, DOCTOR.
OH, AND SERGEANT...

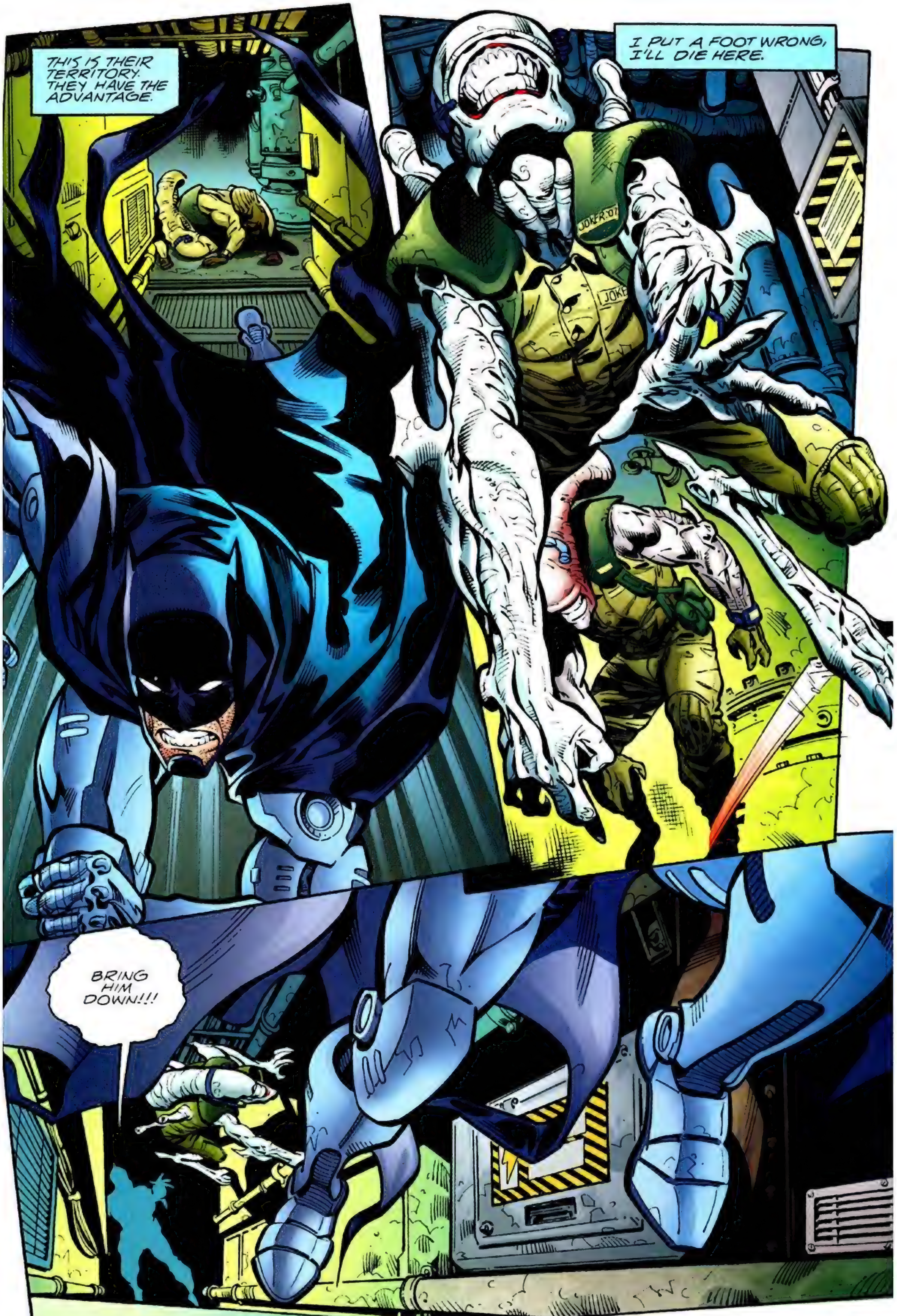

"...GOOD HUNTING."
THERE IS ANOTHER POSSIBILITY.
FREIGHT ELEVATOR•3
4
AUDEN... FORTUNE'S AIDE... WAS A BIO-WEAPONS ENGINEER.
BACK IN GOTHAM, THE PAIR OF THEM WERE INTENT ON ACQUIRING THE ALIEN YOUNG.
FREIGHT ELEVATOR•3
2
THEY FAILED, BUT SUPPOSE FORTUNE HAD OTHER RESOURCES TO DRAW ON...?
FREIGHT ELEVATOR•3
1
DENT:09
DENT:
SUPPOSE SHE HAD MORE THAN ONE SCHEME UP AND RUNNING...?
80

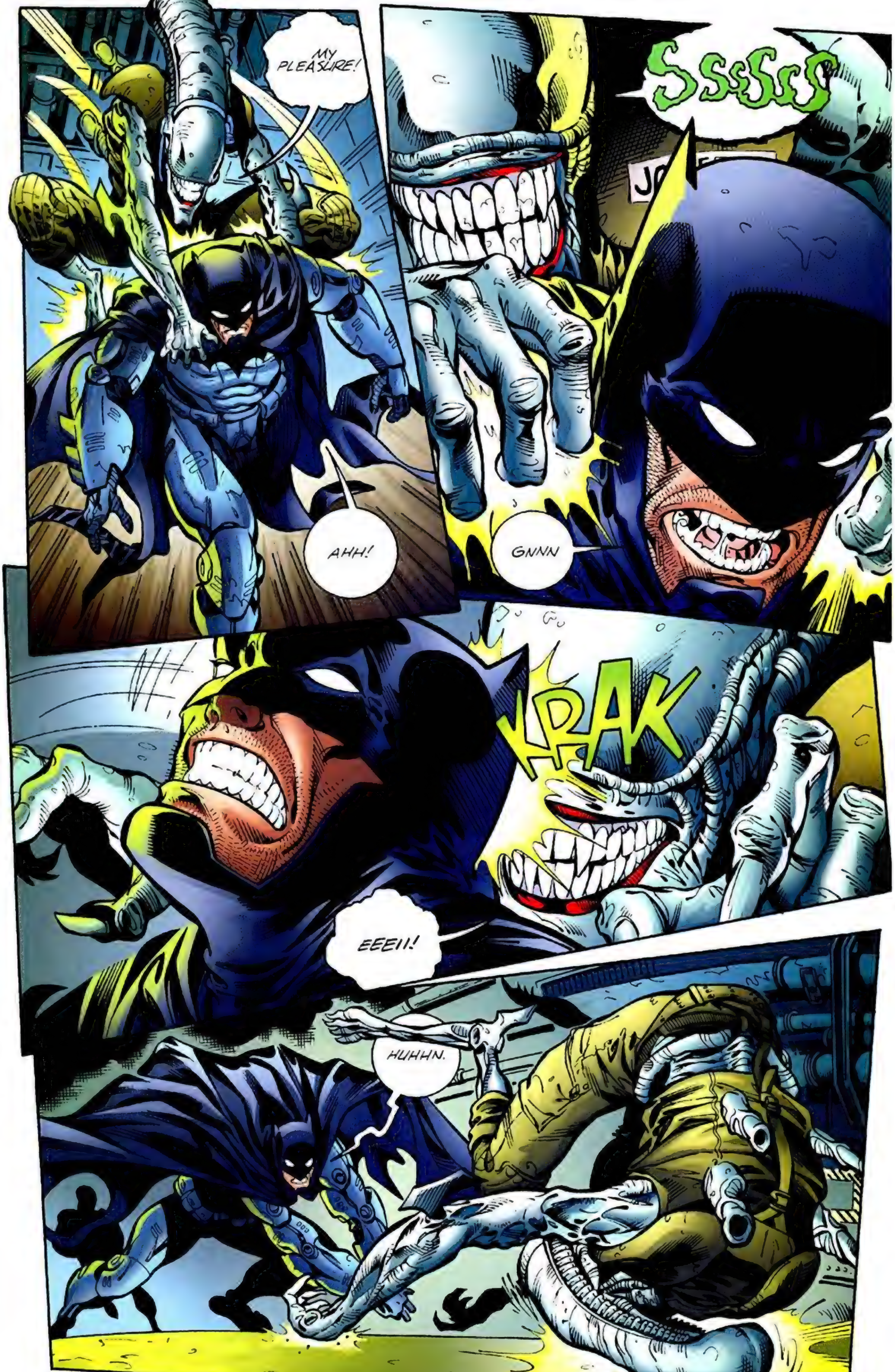

SUPPOSE WE'RE NOT TALKING THEORY ANYMORE, BUT PRACTICAL APPLICATION.
HE'S HERE. HE'S CLOSE. I CAN SMELL HIM.
DENT-09
JOKER
JOKER-07
SERGEANT, A WORD OF CAUTION. YOUR QUARRY MAY BE JUST ONE MAN. BUT HE'S UNLIKE ANY YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY ENCOUNTERED. DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE HIM.
YOU'VE CUT YOUR TEETH ON THE WORLD'S FINEST CONVENTIONAL FORCES, BUT NOW I WANT TO SEE HOW YOU COPE FACING A MEMBER OF THE ALLEGED SUPERHERO COMMUNITY.
MAKE ME PROUD.
YES, MA'AM.

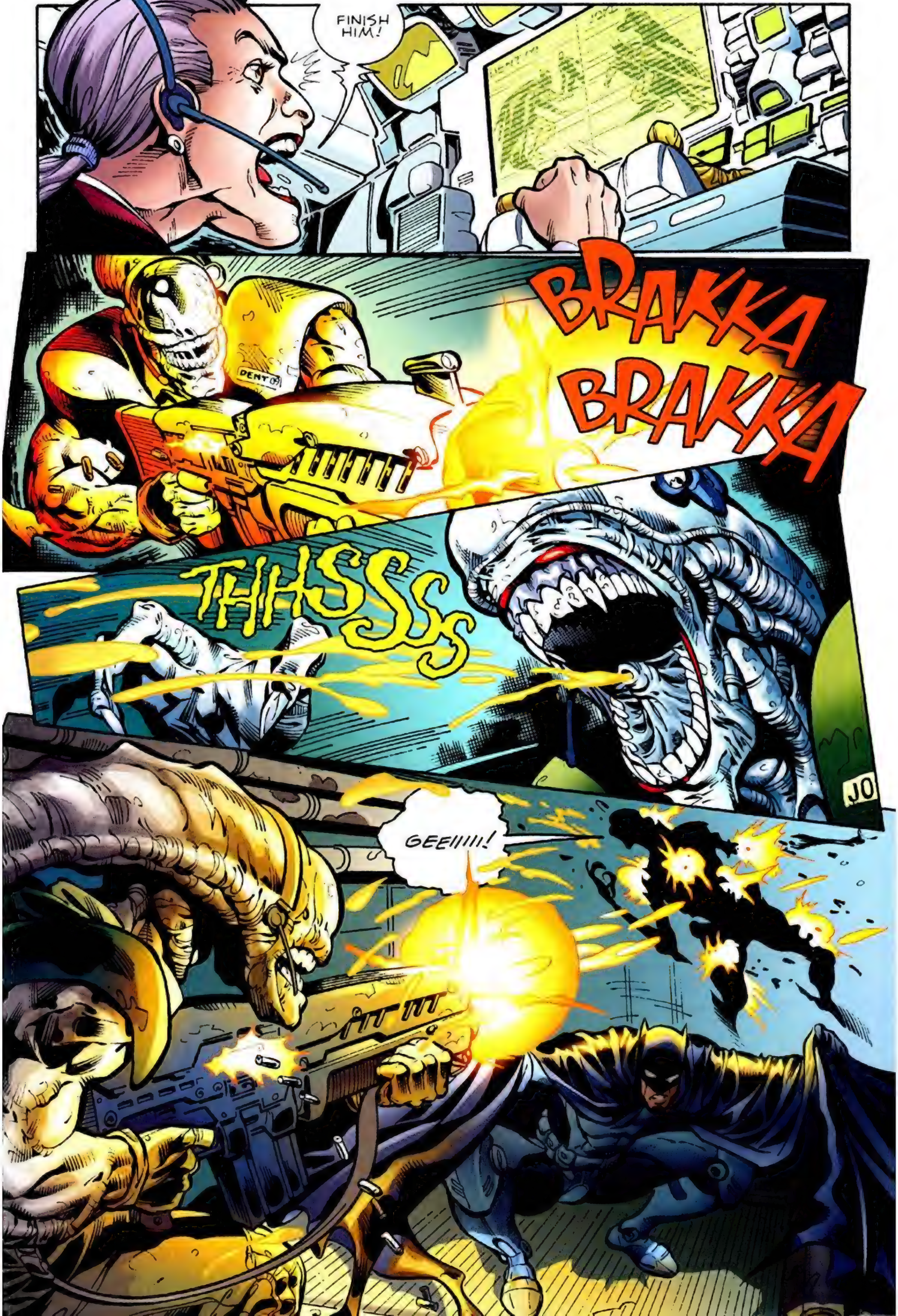

BREAK FOR STANDARD DISPERSAL PATTERN. KEEP AN OPEN COM' LINE AT ALL TIMES. FIRST ONE TO FIND HIM, CALL IT IN.
LET'S MOVE.
DENT
IT'S NOT WHAT I IMAGINED... IT'S WORSE!
EVEN AS MONSTROUS ABERRATIONS, I KNOW THEIR TRUE FACES...
HARVEY DENT--PAMELA ISLEY--JONATHAN CRANE--VICTOR FRIES--THE JOKER--
IT ALL ADDS UP NOW... THEY'RE THE REASON FORTUNE WAS AT ARKHAM. SHE WAS HARVESTING THEIR GENETIC MATERIAL, SPLICING IT WITH THE ALIENS' GENOME TO CREATE THESE HYBRIDS.
BUT THE ALIENS THEMSELVES APPEARED ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO...
THE CODES ON THEIR UNIFORMS IMPLY THEY'RE NOT PROTOTYPES, BUT PRODUCTION LINE MODELS.
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE, UNLESS...
EACH TIME AN INMATE CHECKS INTO ARKHAM, THEY'RE GIVEN A COMPLETE MEDICAL WORK-UP.
IT WOULD BE EASY FOR SOMEONE WITH FORTUNE'S BLACK OPS CONNECTIONS TO OBTAIN AN EXTRA BLOOD SAMPLE...
...OR SALIVA SWAB.

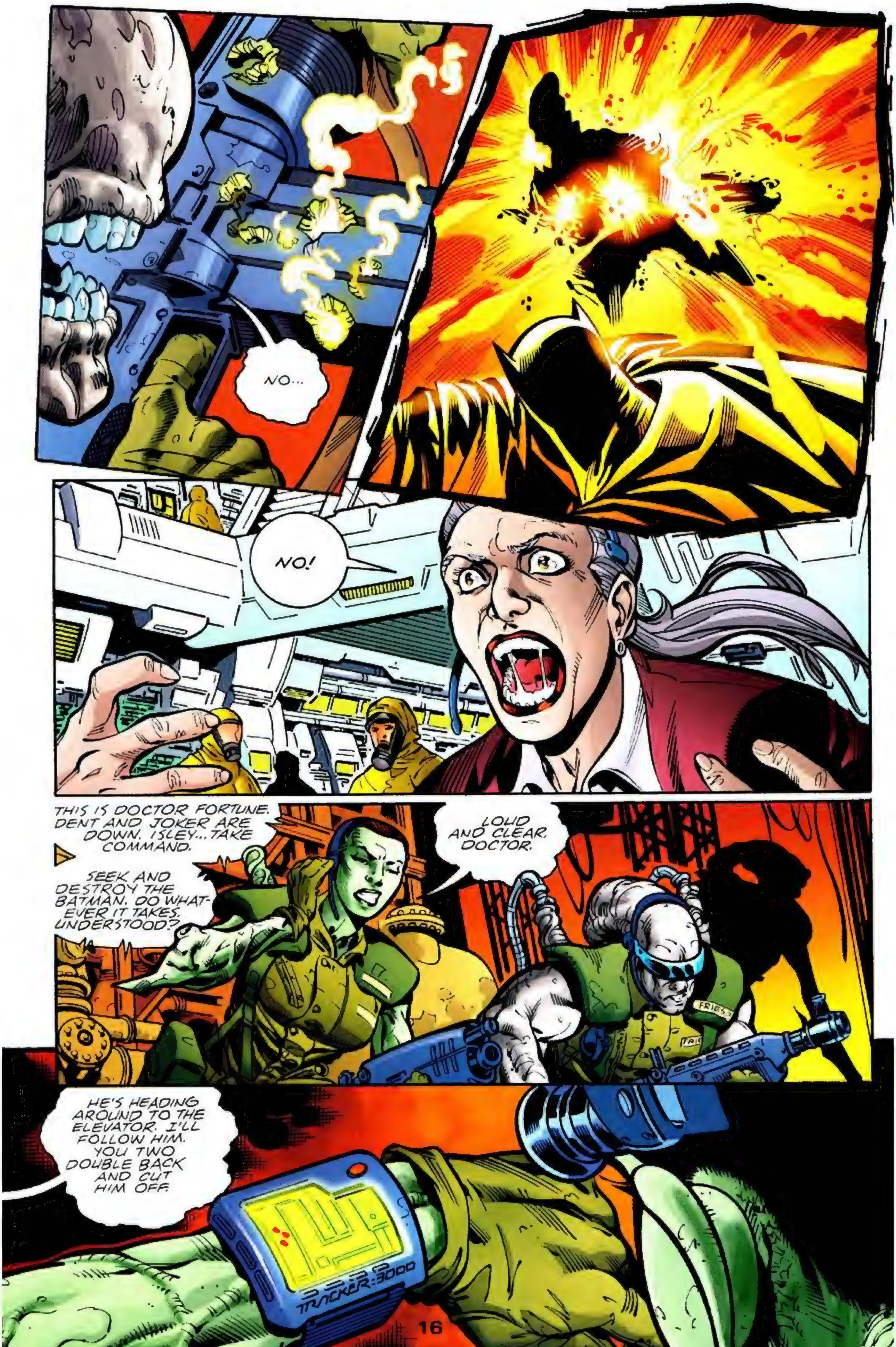

WHAT ABOUT FORTUNE HERSELF? BACK IN ARKHAM, SHE CRUSHED THE FREEZE RAY WITH ONE HAND. I SAW HER BLOOD BURN...
IS SHE A HYBRID? IF SO, WHY ISN'T SHE LIKE THE OTHERS?
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.
FIRE
BRAKKA BRAKABRAKKA
GUH...
BEHIND US! I KNEW IT!
DENT TO ALL POINTS... HAVE ACQUIRED THE TARGET! HOME IN ON MY TWENTY!

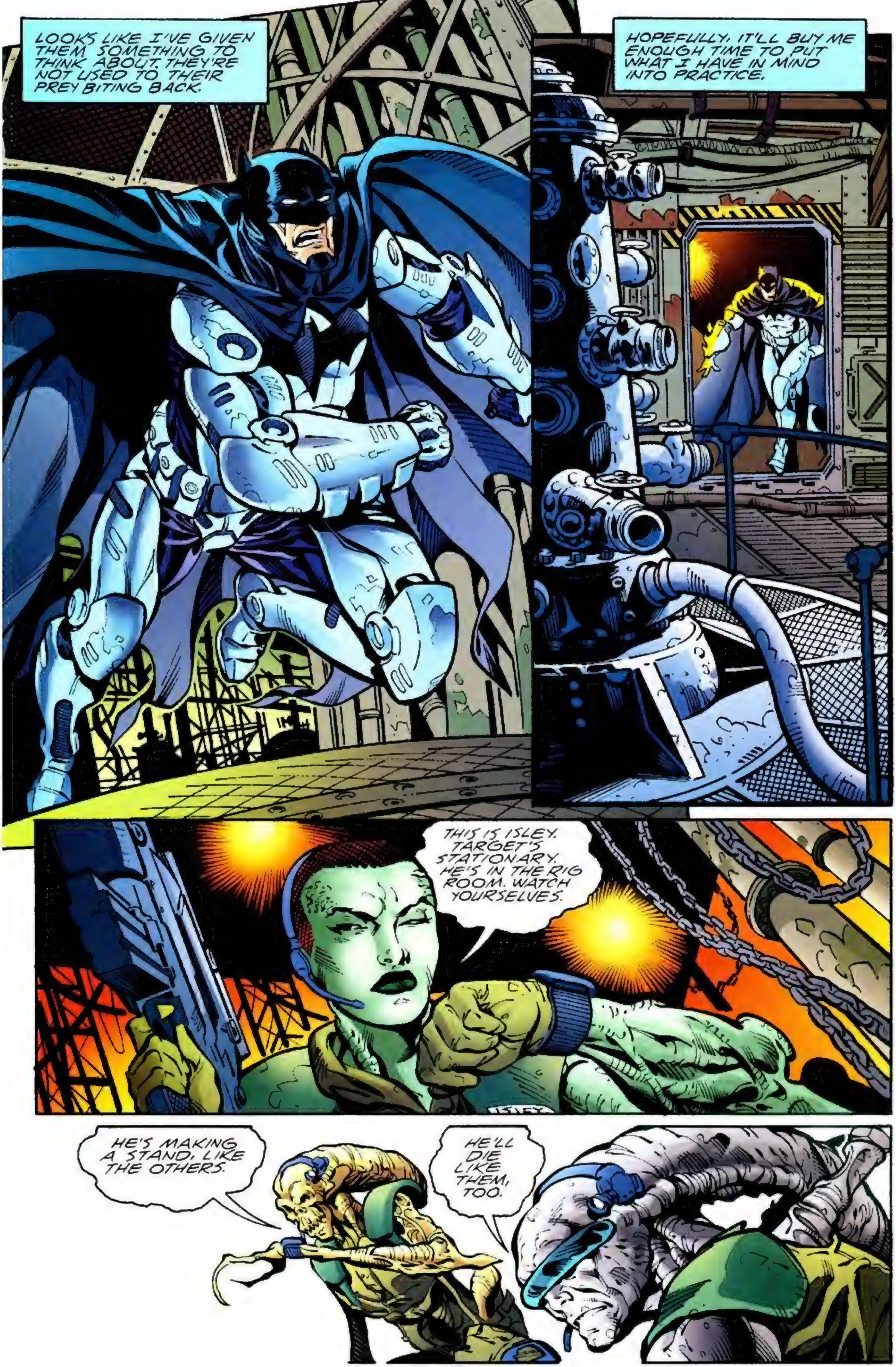

IT'S UNCANNY. HE SOUNDS JUST LIKE HARVEY DID BEFORE HE BECAME TWO-FACE.
DENT '09
NKK
FORTUNATELY, NEITHER OF THEM ARE LIGHT ON THEIR FEET.
CAN'T GET DISTRACTED. HAVE TO STAY SHARP.

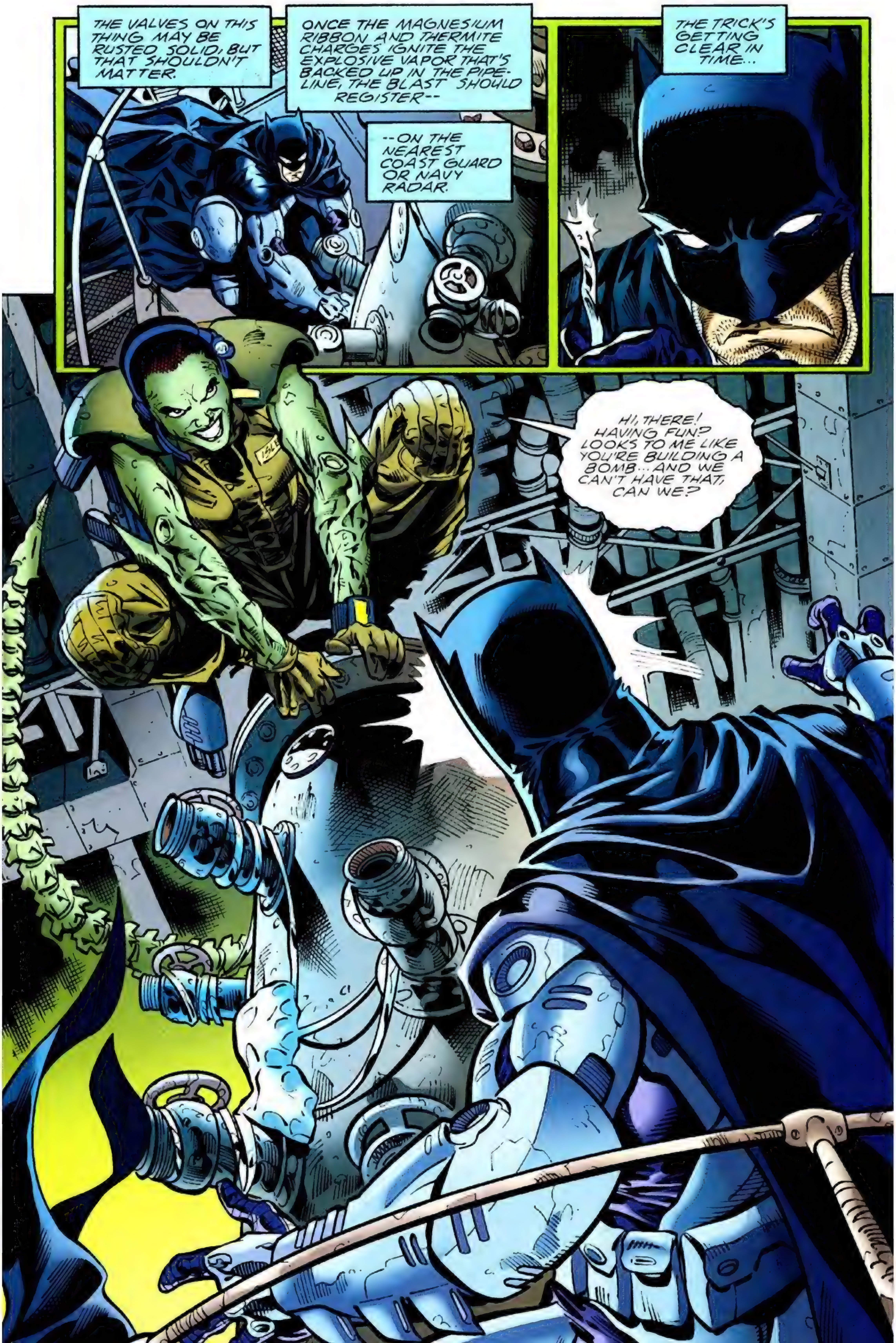

THIS IS THEIR TERRITORY. THEY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE.
I PUT A FOOT WRONG, I'LL DIE HERE.
JOKER.01
JOKE
BRING HIM DOWN!!!

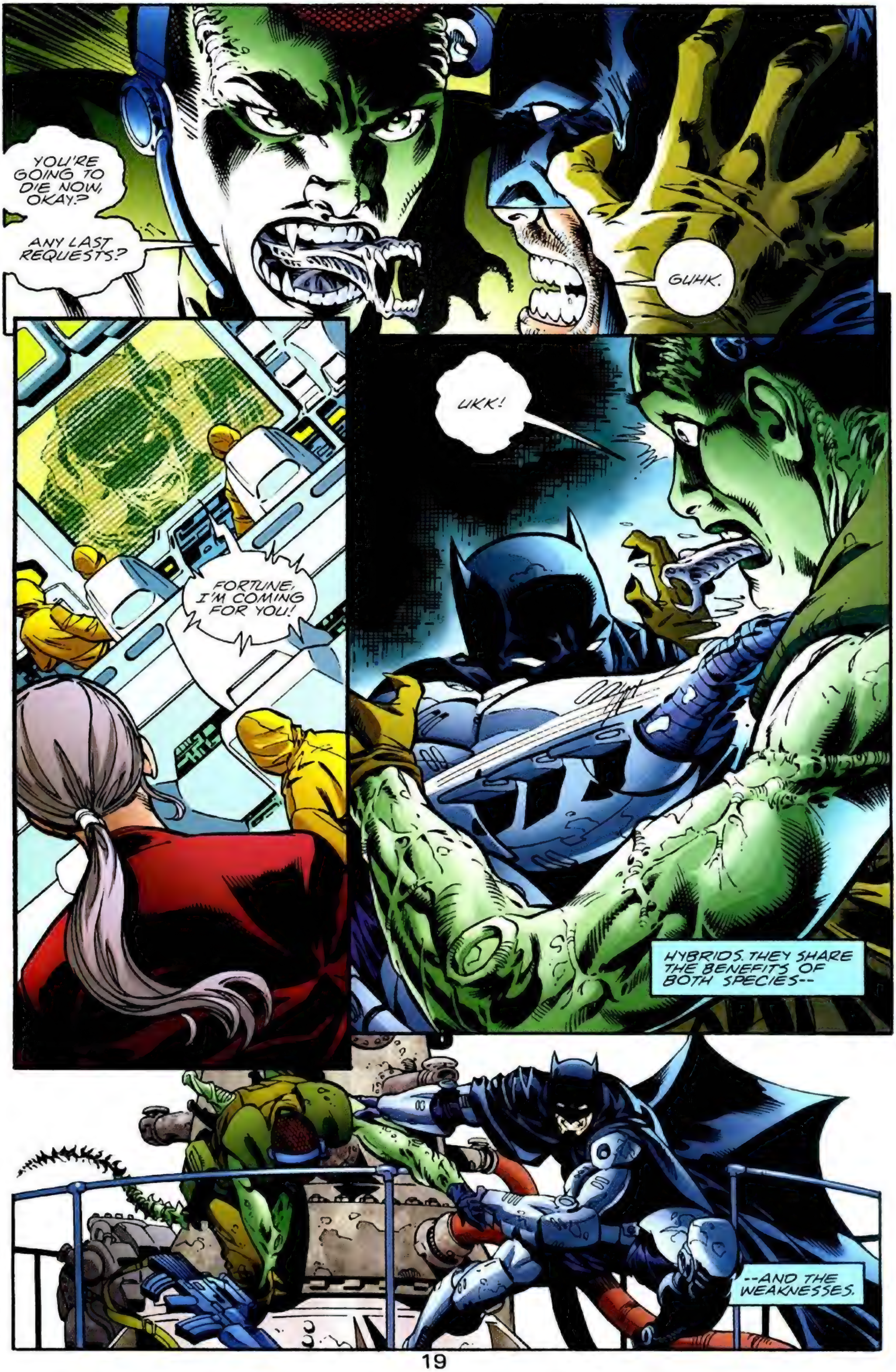

MY PLEASURE!
AHH!
SsSsSs
JO
GNNN
KRAK
EEEII!
HUHHN.

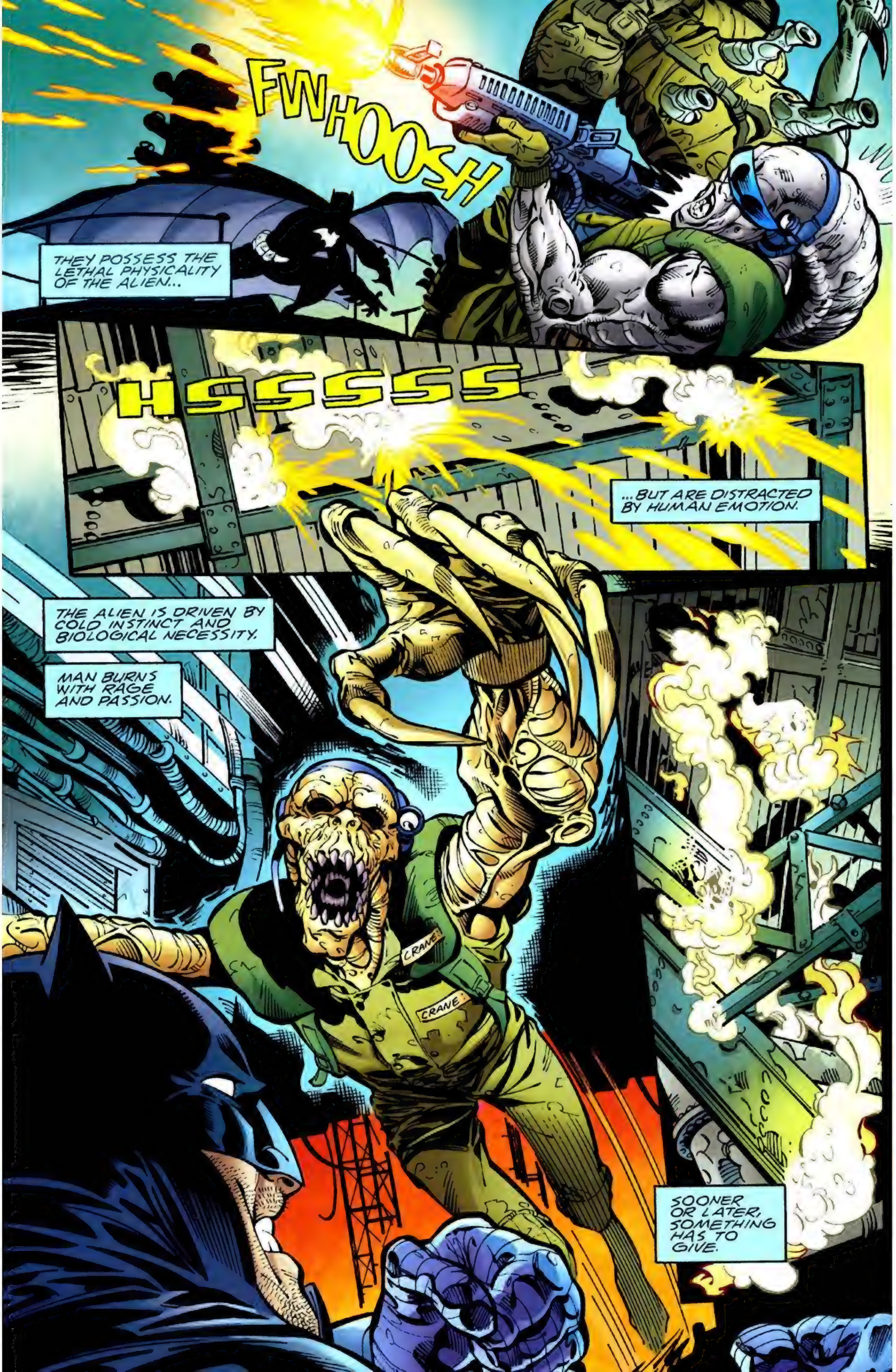

FINISH HIM!
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
DENT
THHSSSS
GEEIIIII!

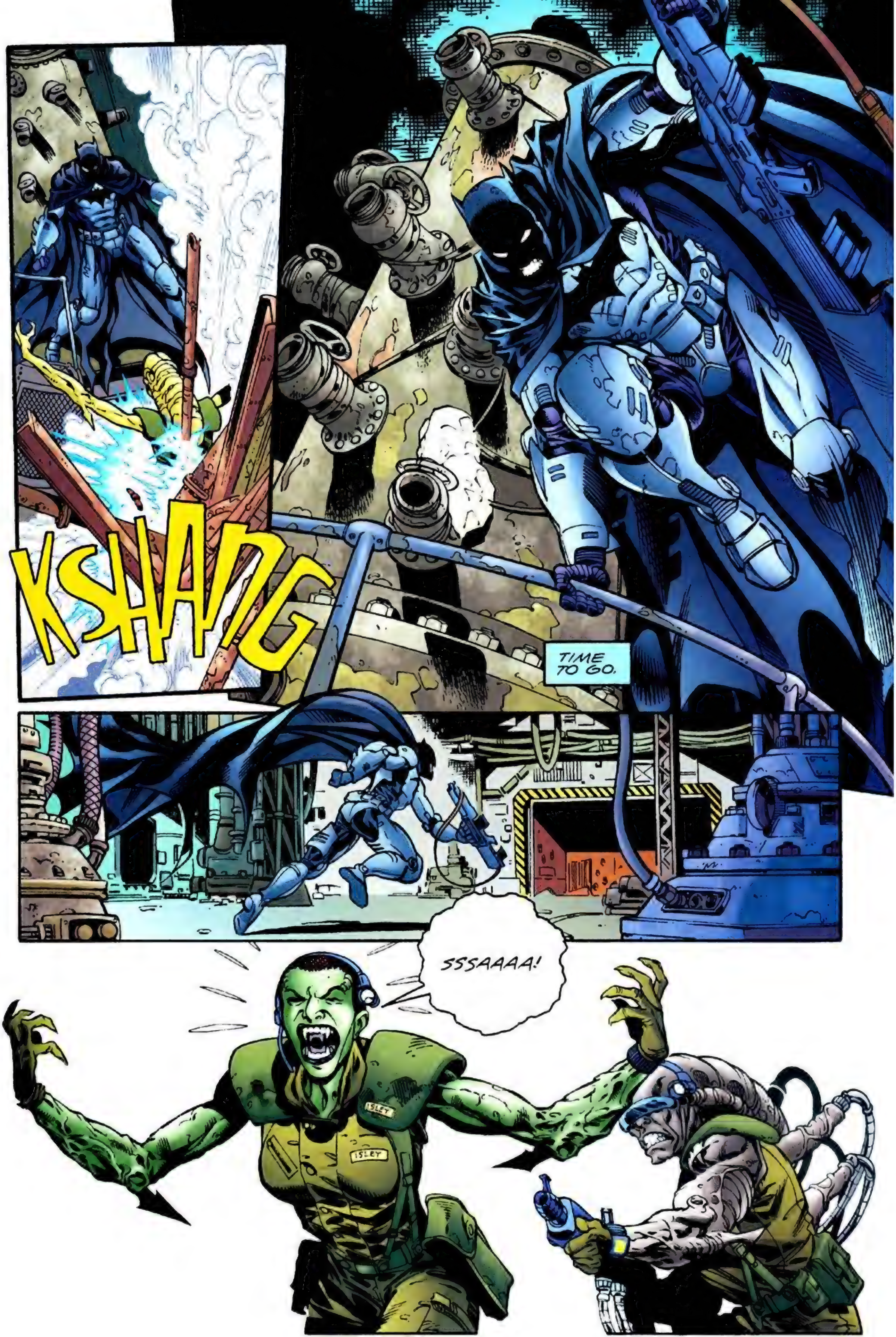

NO...
NO!
THIS IS DOCTOR FORTUNE. DENT AND JOKER ARE DOWN. ISLEY... TAKE COMMAND.
SEEK AND DESTROY THE BATMAN. DO WHATEVER IT TAKES. UNDERSTOOD?
LOUD AND CLEAR, DOCTOR.
FRIES
HE'S HEADING AROUND TO THE ELEVATOR. I'LL FOLLOW HIM. YOU TWO DOUBLE BACK AND CUT HIM OFF.
TRACKER:3000

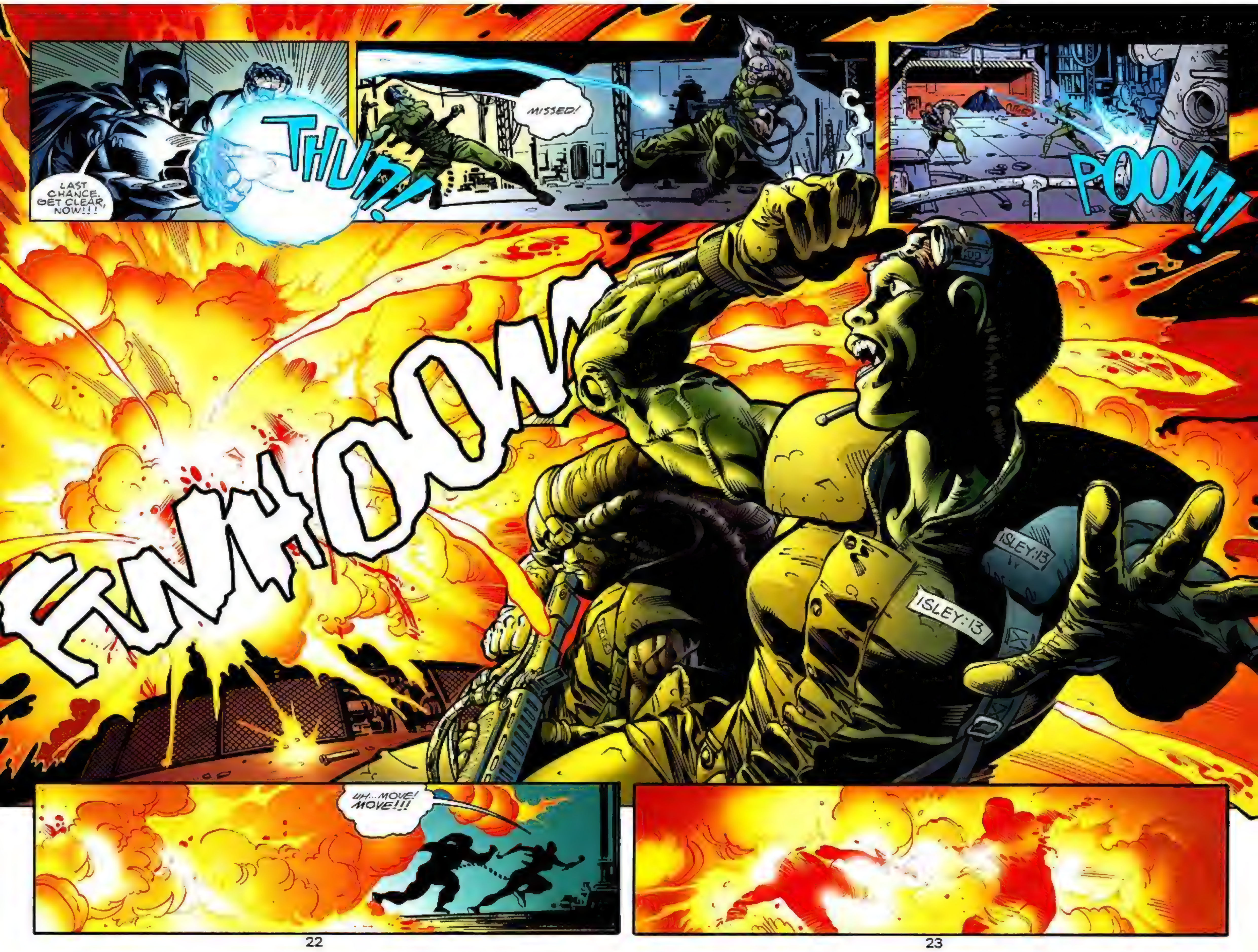

LOOKS LIKE I'VE GIVEN THEM SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT. THEY'RE NOT USED TO THEIR PREY BITING BACK.
HOPEFULLY, IT'LL BUY ME ENOUGH TIME TO PUT WHAT I HAVE IN MIND INTO PRACTICE.
THIS IS ISLEY. TARGET'S STATIONARY. HE'S IN THE RIG ROOM. WATCH YOURSELVES.
ISLEY
HE'S MAKING A STAND, LIKE THE OTHERS.
HE'LL DIE LIKE THEM, TOO.

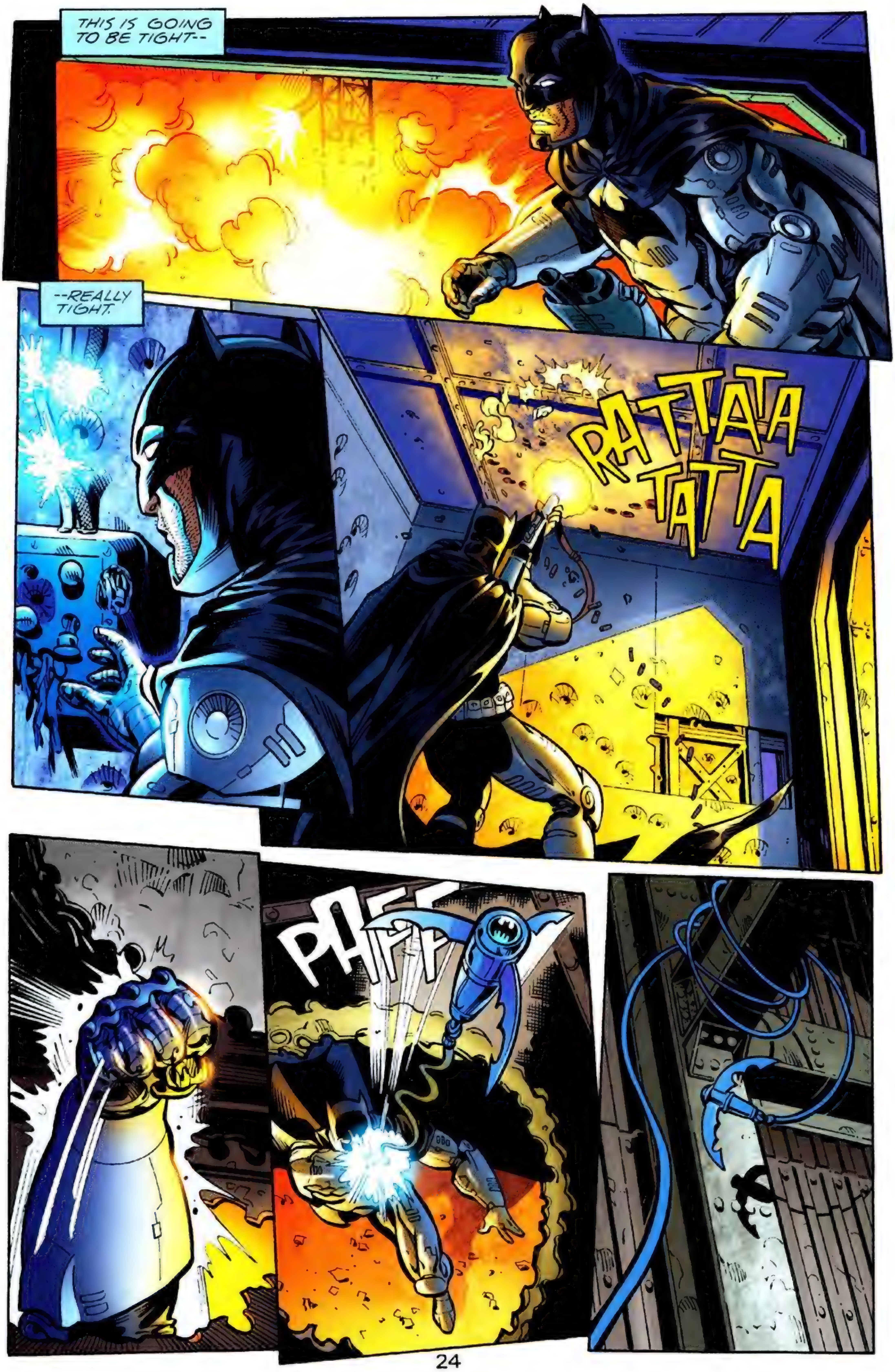

THE VALVES ON THIS THING MAY BE RUSTED SOLID, BUT THAT SHOULDN'T MATTER.
ONCE THE MAGNESIUM RIBBON AND THERMITE CHARGES IGNITE THE EXPLOSIVE VAPOR THAT'S BACKED UP IN THE PIPELINE, THE BLAST SHOULD REGISTER--
--ON THE NEAREST COAST GUARD OR NAVY RADAR.
THE TRICK'S GETTING CLEAR IN TIME...
HI, THERE! HAVING FUN? LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE BUILDING A BOMB... AND WE CAN'T HAVE THAT, CAN WE?

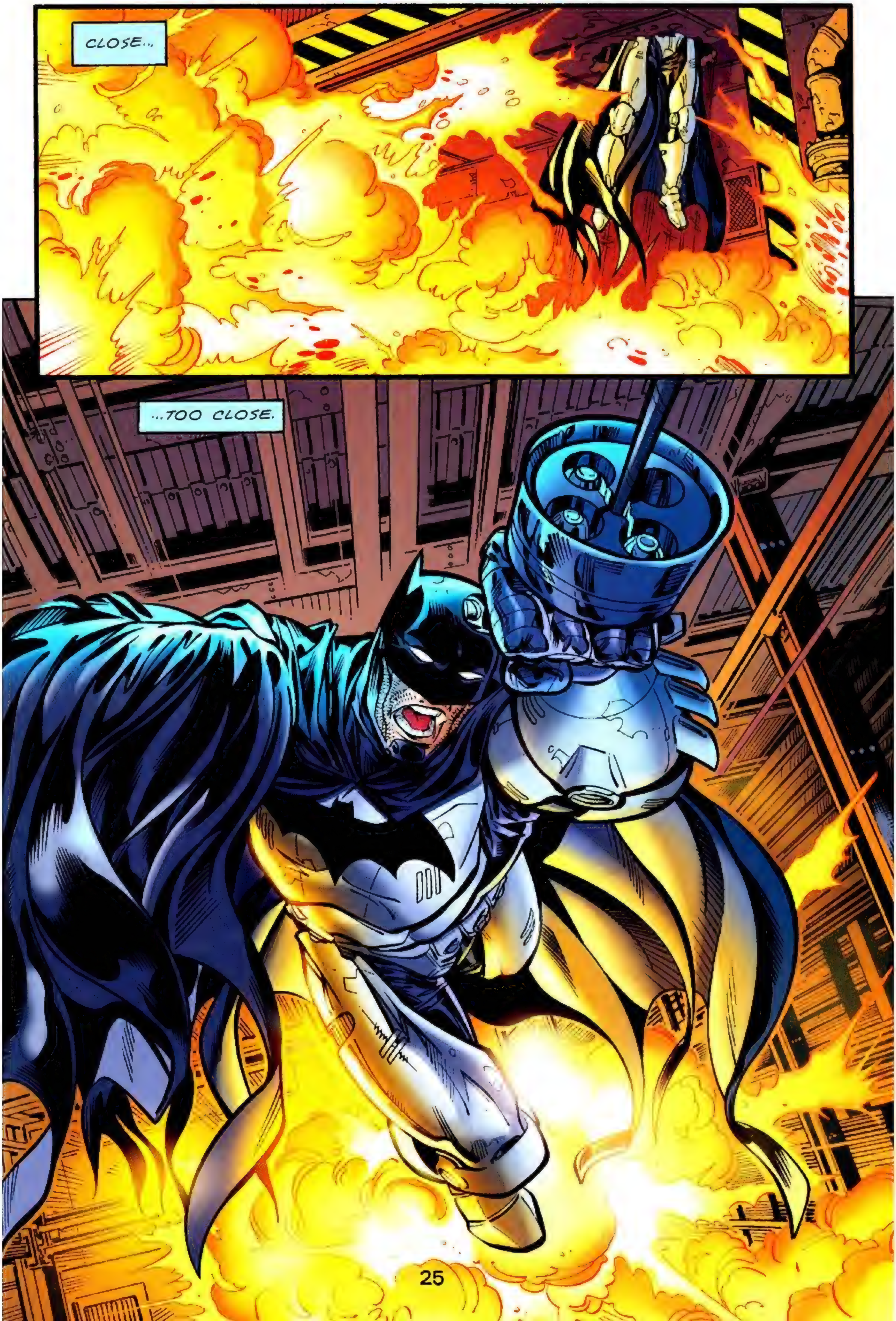

YOU'RE GOING TO DIE NOW, OKAY?
ANY LAST REQUESTS?
GUHK.
FORTUNE, I'M COMING FOR YOU!
UKK!
HYBRIDS. THEY SHARE THE BENEFITS OF BOTH SPECIES--
--AND THE WEAKNESSES.

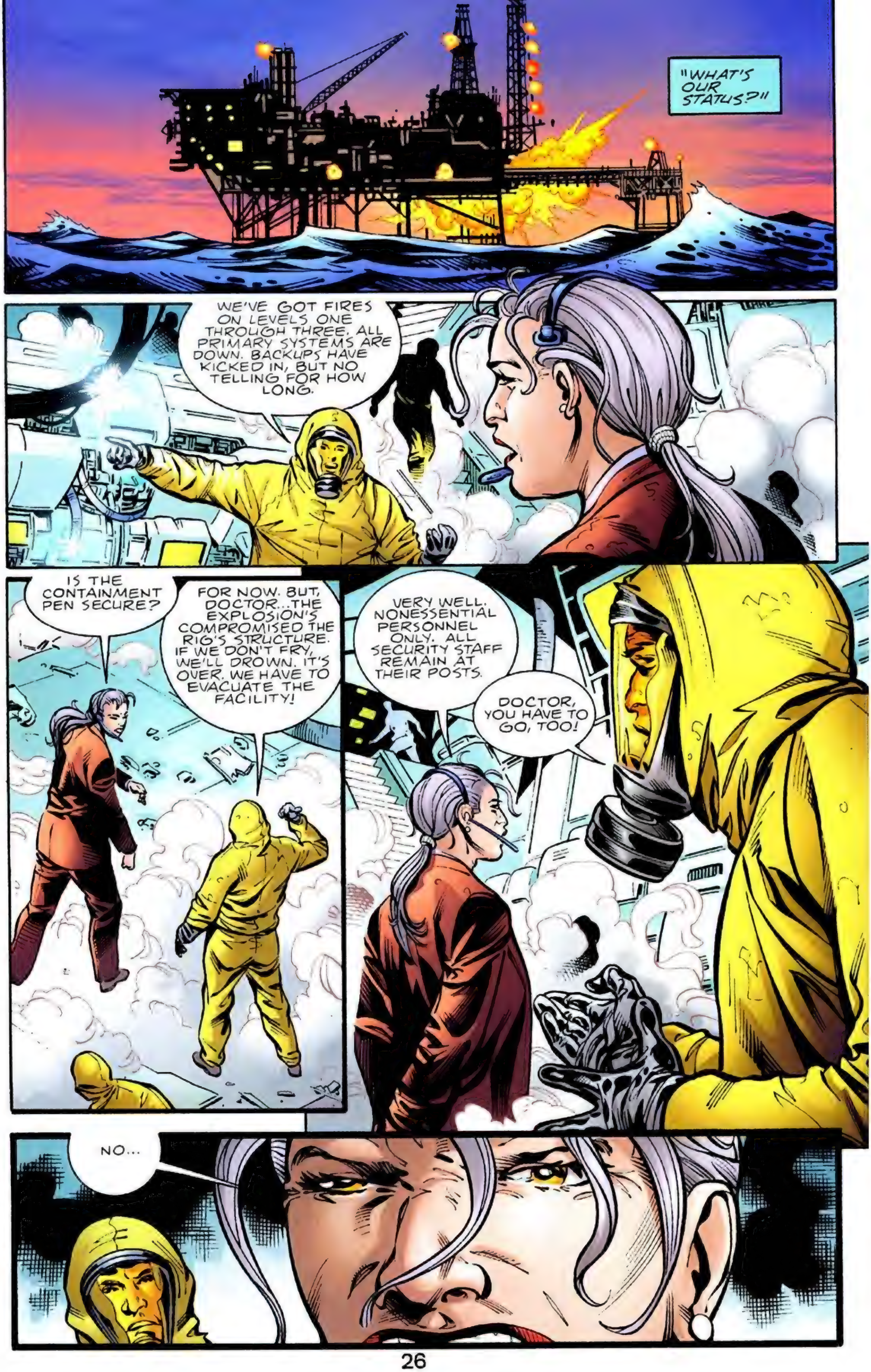

FWHOOSH
THEY POSSESS THE LETHAL PHYSICALITY OF THE ALIEN...
HSSSSS
...BUT ARE DISTRACTED BY HUMAN EMOTION.
THE ALIEN IS DRIVEN BY COLD INSTINCT AND BIOLOGICAL NECESSITY.
MAN BURNS WITH RAGE AND PASSION.
CRANE
CRANE
SOONER OR LATER, SOMETHING HAS TO GIVE.

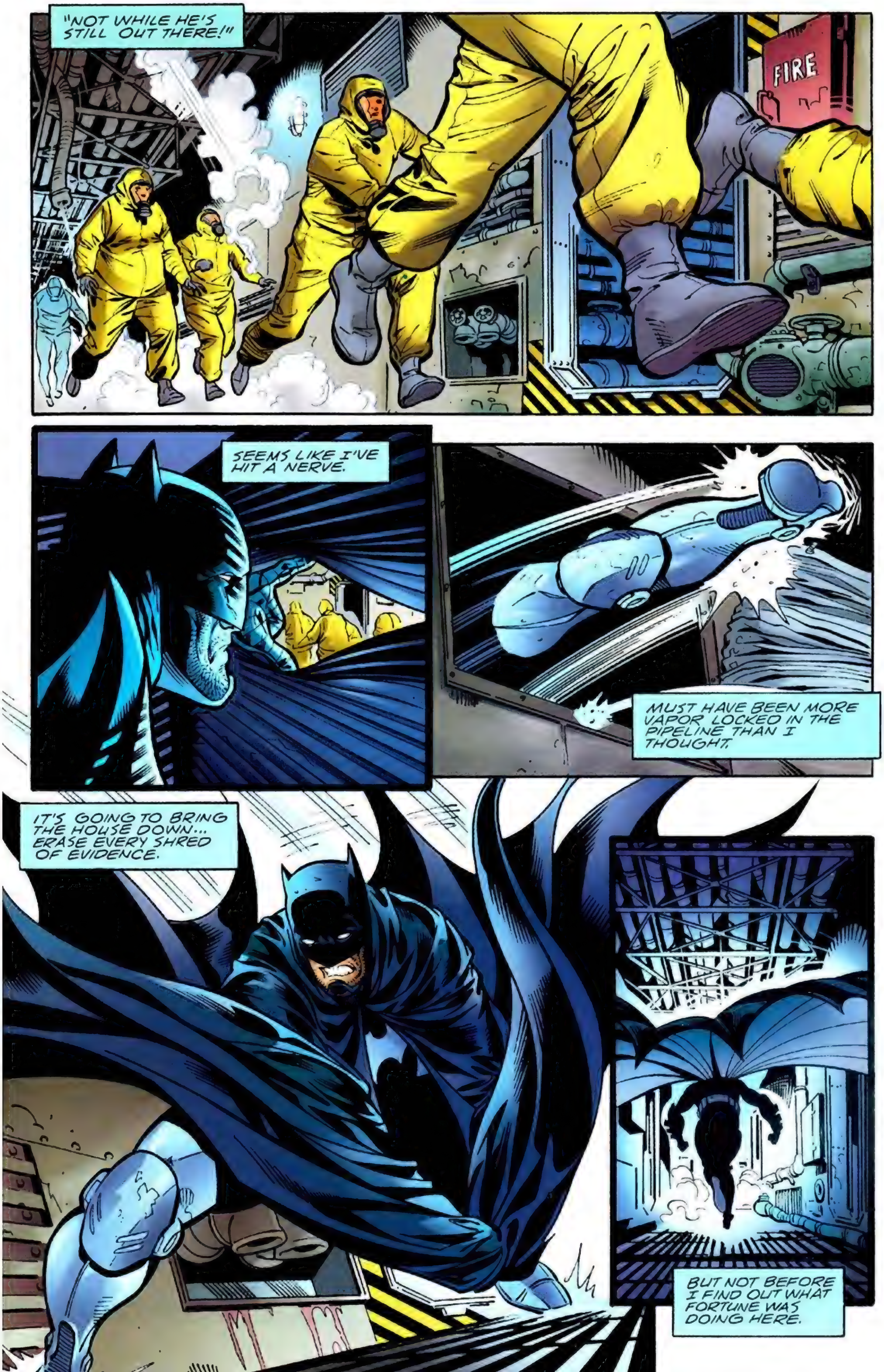

KSHANG
TIME TO GO.
SSSAAAA!
ISLEY
ISLEY

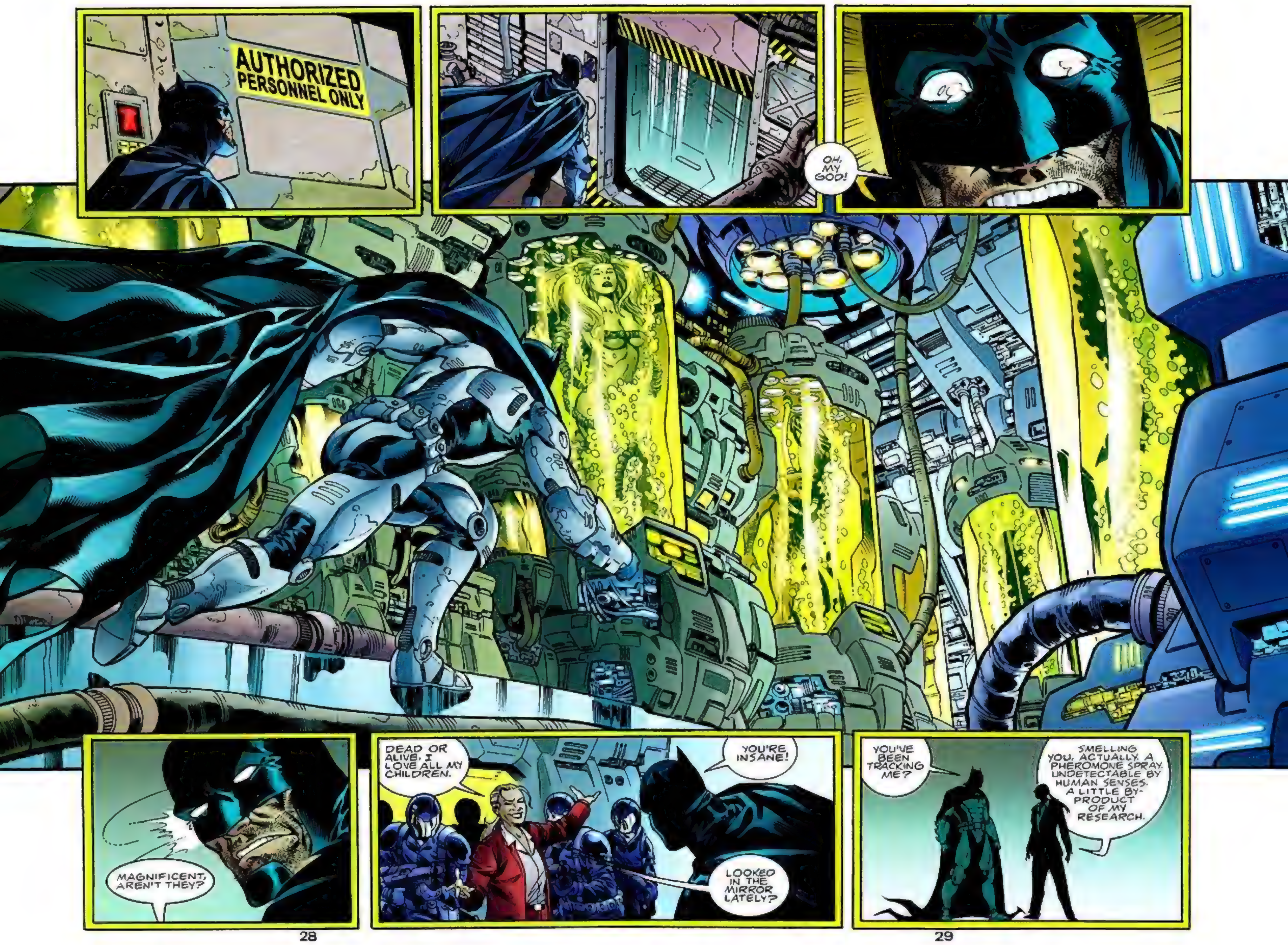

LAST CHANCE. GET CLEAR, NOW!!!
THUD!!
MISSED!
POOM!!
FWHOOM
ISLEY:13
ISLEY:13
UH...MOVE! MOVE!!!

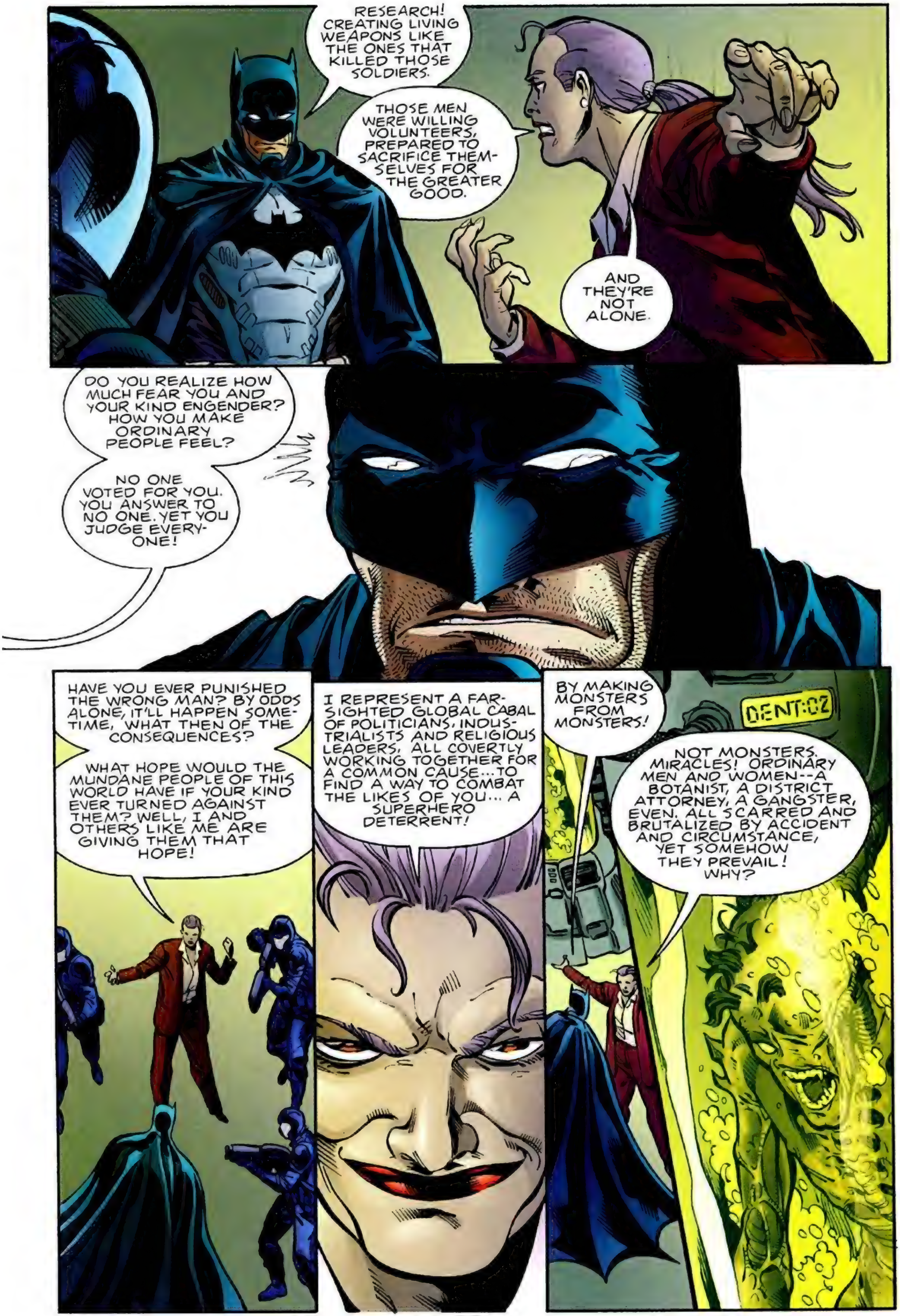

THIS IS GOING TO BE TIGHT--
--REALLY TIGHT.
RATTATA TATTA
PHFFF

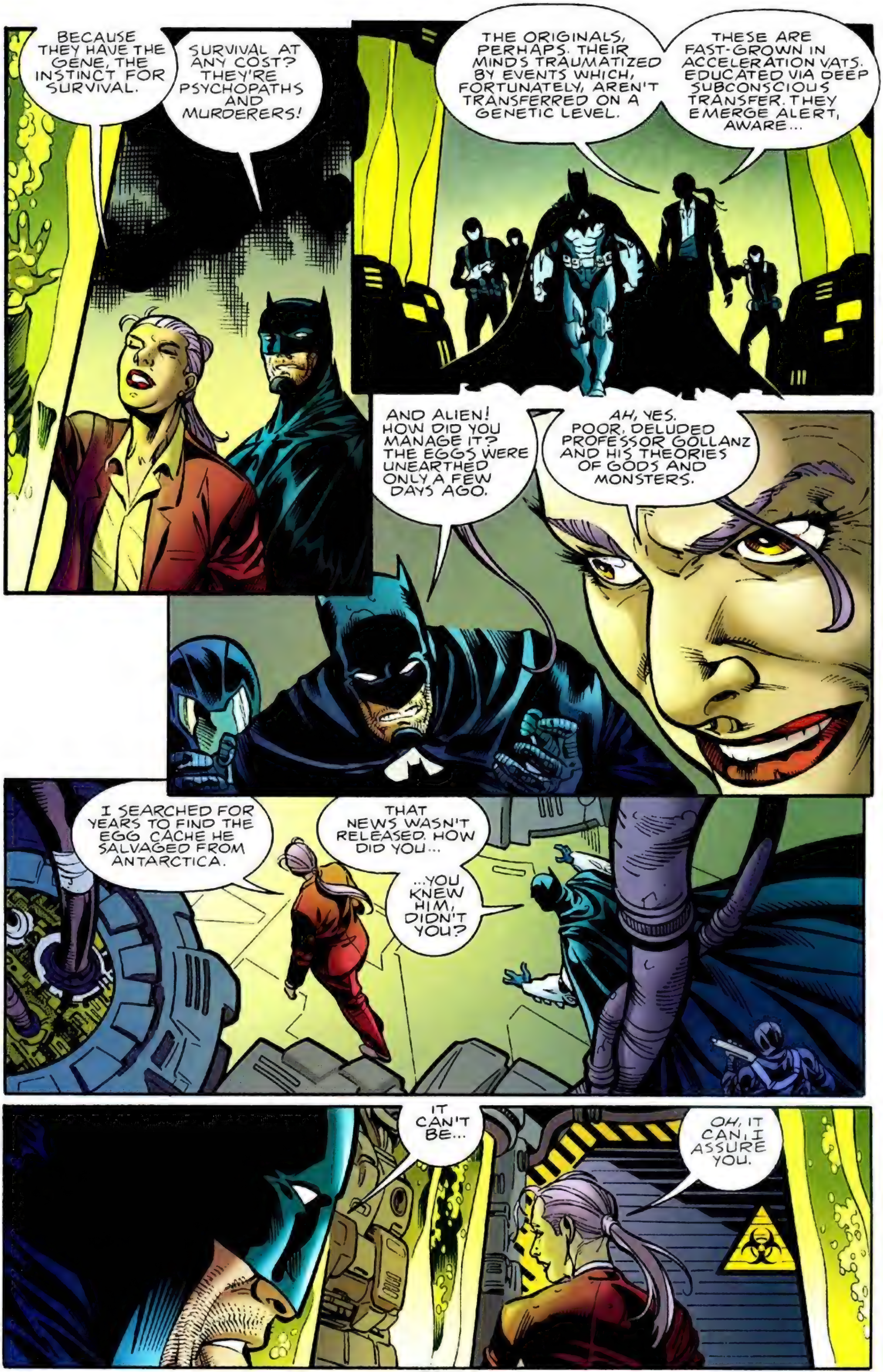

CLOSE...
...TOO CLOSE.

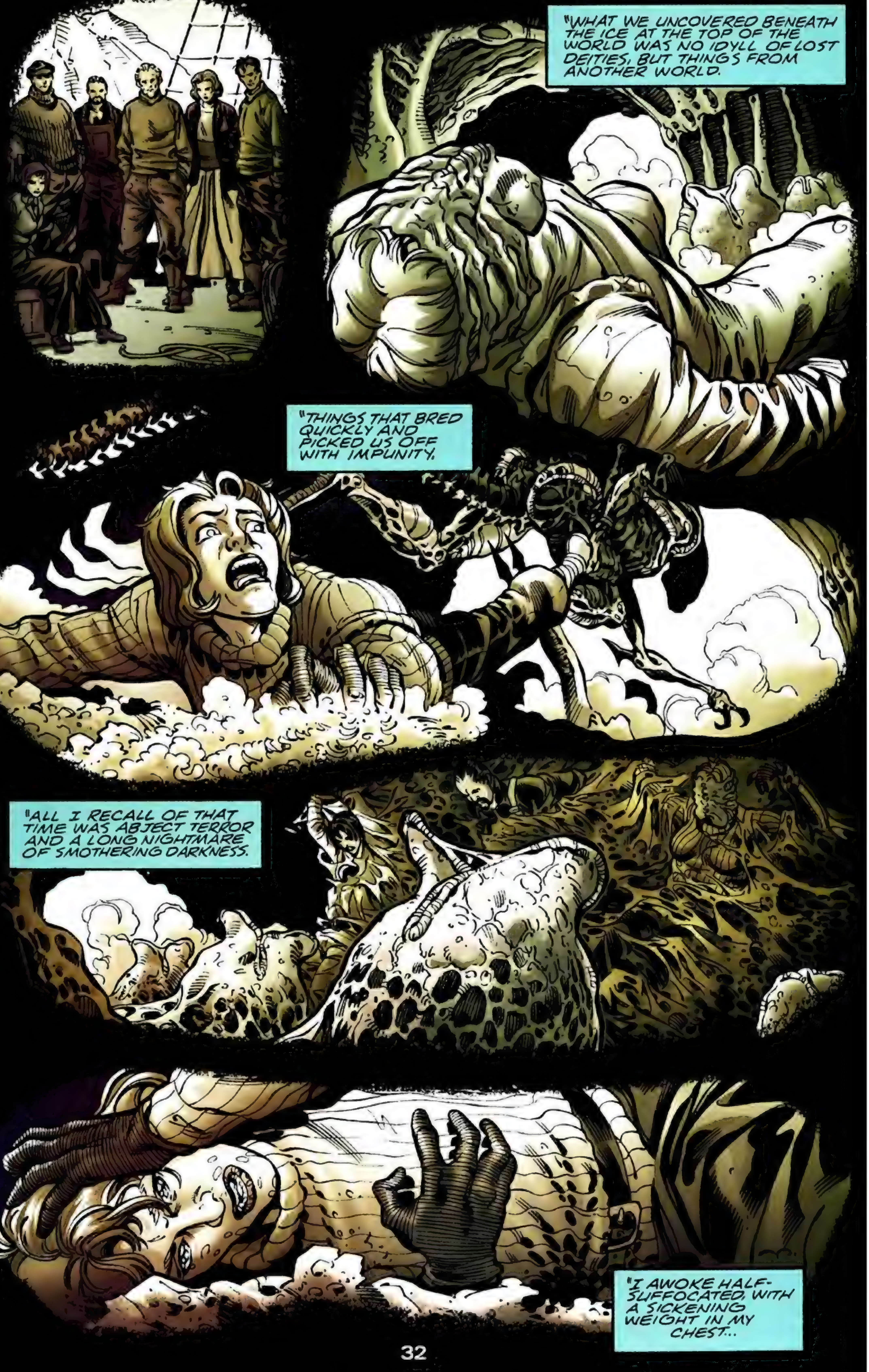

"WHAT'S OUR STATUS?"
WE'VE GOT FIRES ON LEVELS ONE THROUGH THREE. ALL PRIMARY SYSTEMS ARE DOWN. BACKUPS HAVE KICKED IN, BUT NO TELLING FOR HOW LONG.
IS THE CONTAINMENT PEN SECURE?
FOR NOW. BUT, DOCTOR...THE EXPLOSION'S COMPROMISED THE RIG'S STRUCTURE. IF WE DON'T FRY, WE'LL DROWN. IT'S OVER. WE HAVE TO EVACUATE THE FACILITY!
VERY WELL. NONESSENTIAL PERSONNEL ONLY. ALL SECURITY STAFF REMAIN AT THEIR POSTS.
DOCTOR, YOU HAVE TO GO, TOO!
NO...

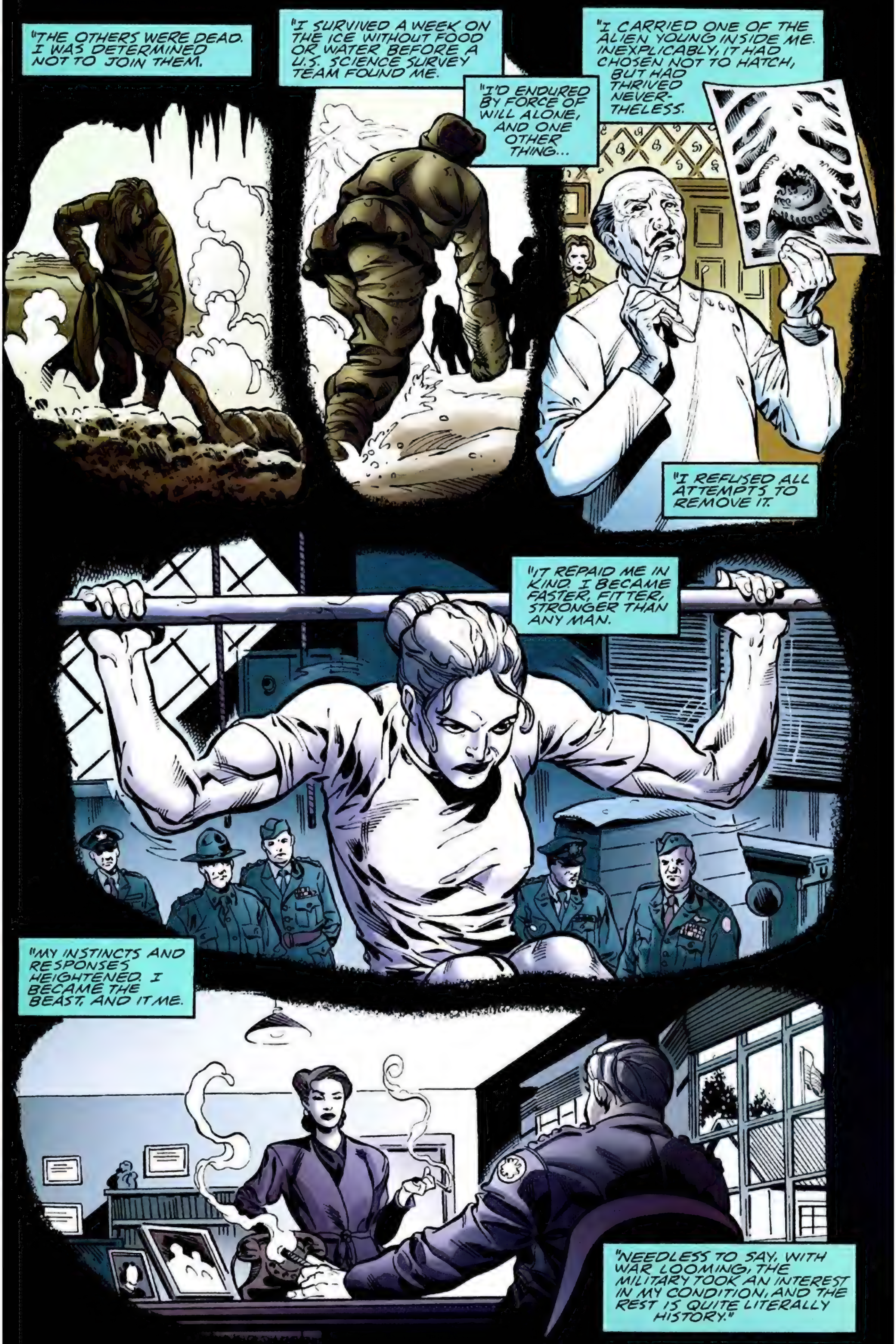

"NOT WHILE HE'S STILL OUT THERE!"
FIRE
SEEMS LIKE I'VE HIT A NERVE.
MUST HAVE BEEN MORE VAPOR LOCKED IN THE PIPELINE THAN I THOUGHT.
IT'S GOING TO BRING THE HOUSE DOWN... ERASE EVERY SHRED OF EVIDENCE.
BUT NOT BEFORE I FIND OUT WHAT FORTUNE WAS DOING HERE.

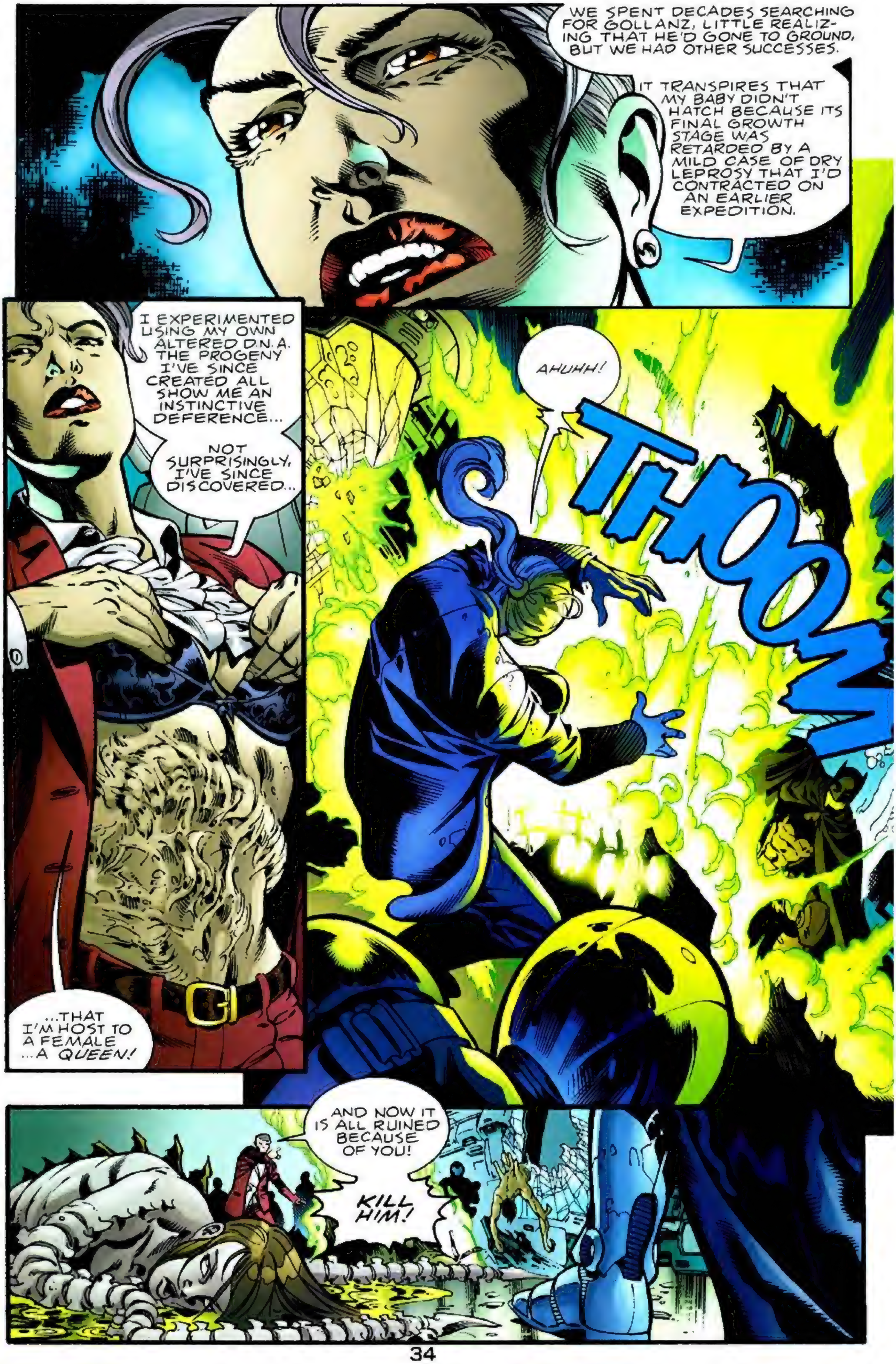

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
OH, MY GOD!
MAGNIFICENT, AREN'T THEY?
DEAD OR ALIVE, I LOVE ALL MY CHILDREN.
YOU'RE INSANE!
LOOKED IN THE MIRROR LATELY?
YOU'VE BEEN TRACKING ME?
SMELLING YOU, ACTUALLY. A PHEROMONE SPRAY UNDETECTABLE BY HUMAN SENSES. A LITTLE BY-PRODUCT OF MY RESEARCH.

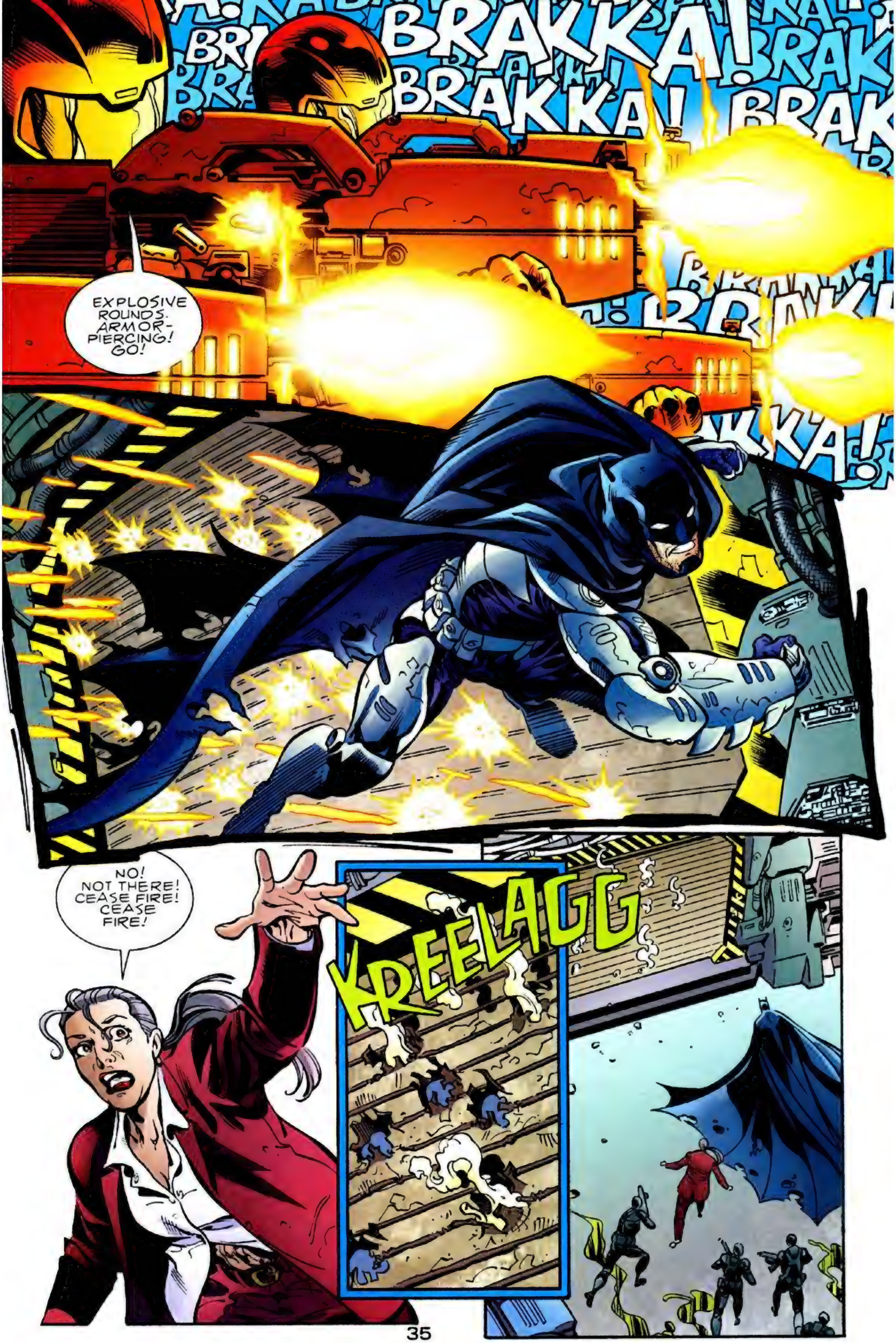

RESEARCH! CREATING LIVING WEAPONS LIKE THE ONES THAT KILLED THOSE SOLDIERS.
THOSE MEN WERE WILLING VOLUNTEERS, PREPARED TO SACRIFICE THEMSELVES FOR THE GREATER GOOD.
AND THEY'RE NOT ALONE.
DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH FEAR YOU AND YOUR KIND ENGENDER? HOW YOU MAKE ORDINARY PEOPLE FEEL?
NO ONE VOTED FOR YOU. YOU ANSWER TO NO ONE. YET YOU JUDGE EVERYONE!
HAVE YOU EVER PUNISHED THE WRONG MAN? BY ODDS ALONE, IT'LL HAPPEN SOMETIME. WHAT THEN OF THE CONSEQUENCES?
WHAT HOPE WOULD THE MUNDANE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD HAVE IF YOUR KIND EVER TURNED AGAINST THEM? WELL, I AND OTHERS LIKE ME ARE GIVING THEM THAT HOPE!
I REPRESENT A FAR-SIGHTED GLOBAL CABAL OF POLITICIANS, INDUSTRIALISTS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS, ALL COVERTLY WORKING TOGETHER FOR A COMMON CAUSE...TO FIND A WAY TO COMBAT THE LIKES OF YOU... A SUPERHERO DETERRENT!
BY MAKING MONSTERS FROM MONSTERS!
DENT:02
NOT MONSTERS. MIRACLES! ORDINARY MEN AND WOMEN--A BOTANIST, A DISTRICT ATTORNEY, A GANGSTER, EVEN. ALL SCARRED AND BRUTALIZED BY ACCIDENT AND CIRCUMSTANCE, YET SOMEHOW THEY PREVAIL! WHY?

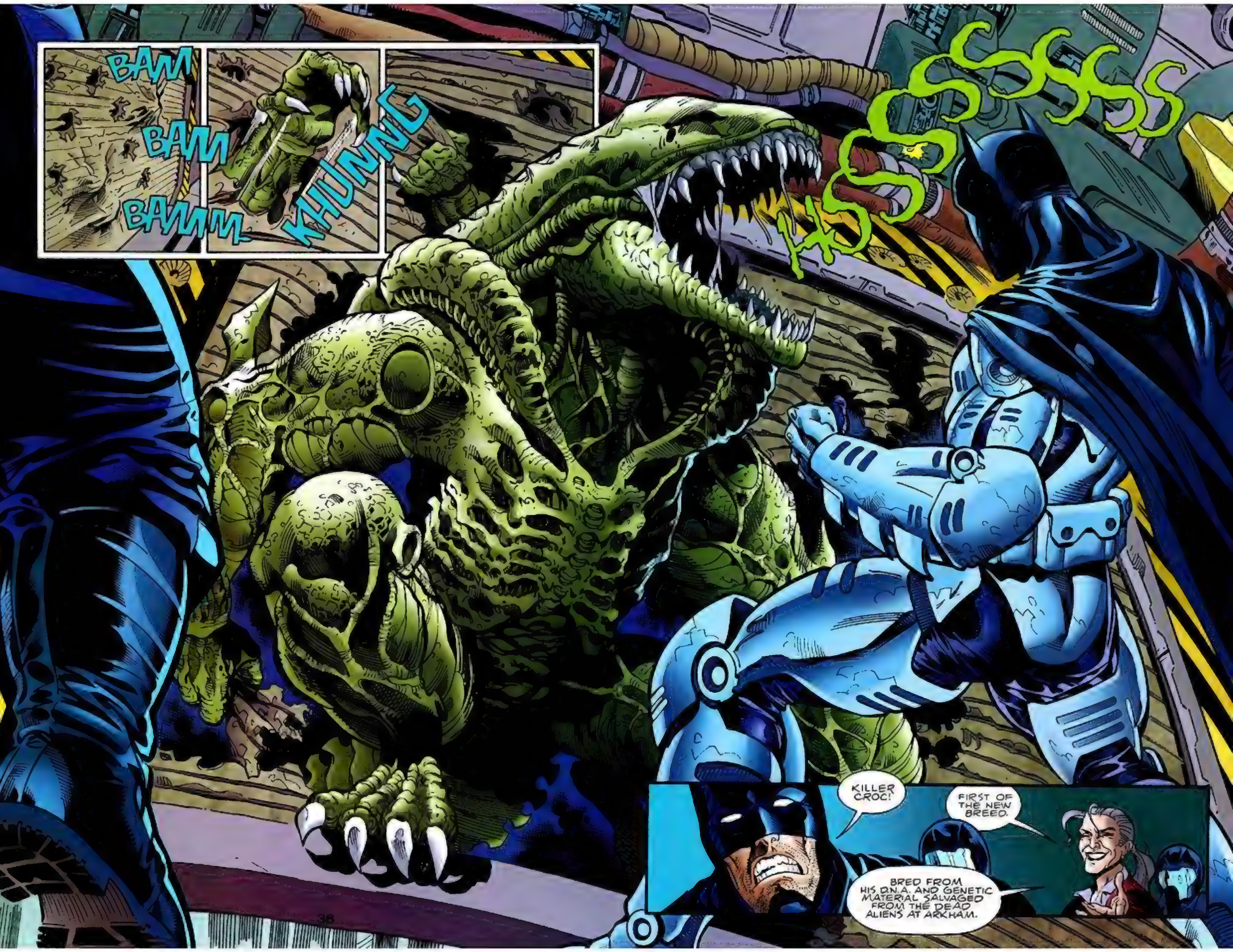

BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE GENE, THE INSTINCT FOR SURVIVAL.
SURVIVAL AT ANY COST? THEY'RE PSYCHOPATHS AND MURDERERS!
THE ORIGINALS, PERHAPS. THEIR MINDS TRAUMATIZED BY EVENTS WHICH, FORTUNATELY, AREN'T TRANSFERRED ON A GENETIC LEVEL.
THESE ARE FAST-GROWN IN ACCELERATION VATS. EDUCATED VIA DEEP SUBCONSCIOUS TRANSFER. THEY EMERGE ALERT, AWARE...
AND ALIEN! HOW DID YOU MANAGE IT? THE EGGS WERE UNEARTHED ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO.
AH, YES. POOR, DELUDED PROFESSOR GOLLANZ AND HIS THEORIES OF GODS AND MONSTERS.
I SEARCHED FOR YEARS TO FIND THE EGG CACHE HE SALVAGED FROM ANTARCTICA.
THAT NEWS WASN'T RELEASED. HOW DID YOU...
...YOU KNEW HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
IT CAN'T BE...
OH, IT CAN, I ASSURE YOU.

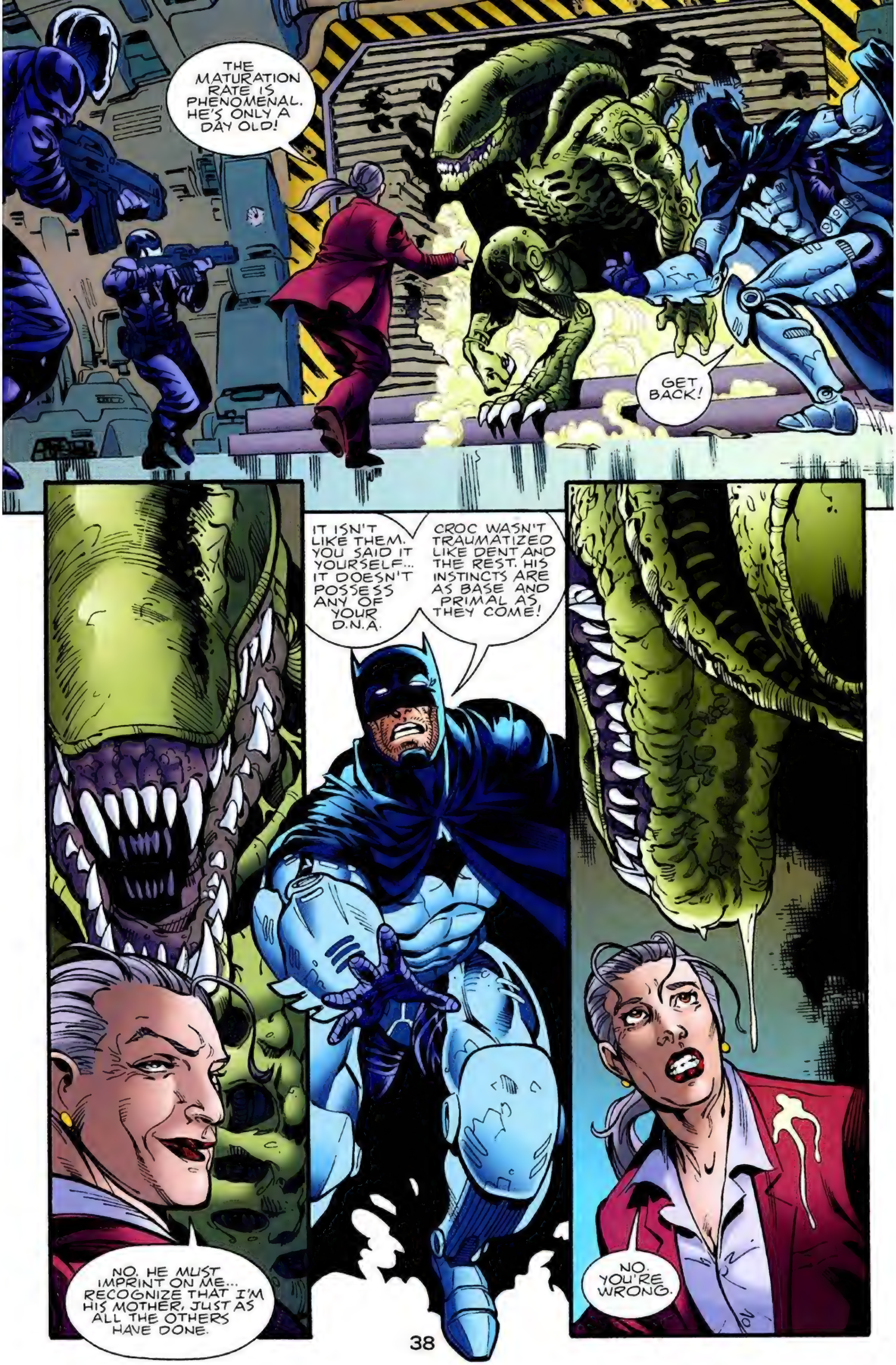

"WHAT WE UNCOVERED BENEATH THE ICE AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD WAS NO IDYLL OF LOST DEITIES, BUT THINGS FROM ANOTHER WORLD.
"THINGS THAT BRED QUICKLY AND PICKED US OFF WITH IMPUNITY.
"ALL I RECALL OF THAT TIME WAS ABJECT TERROR AND A LONG NIGHTMARE OF SMOTHERING DARKNESS.
"I AWOKE HALF-SUFFOCATED, WITH A SICKENING WEIGHT IN MY CHEST...

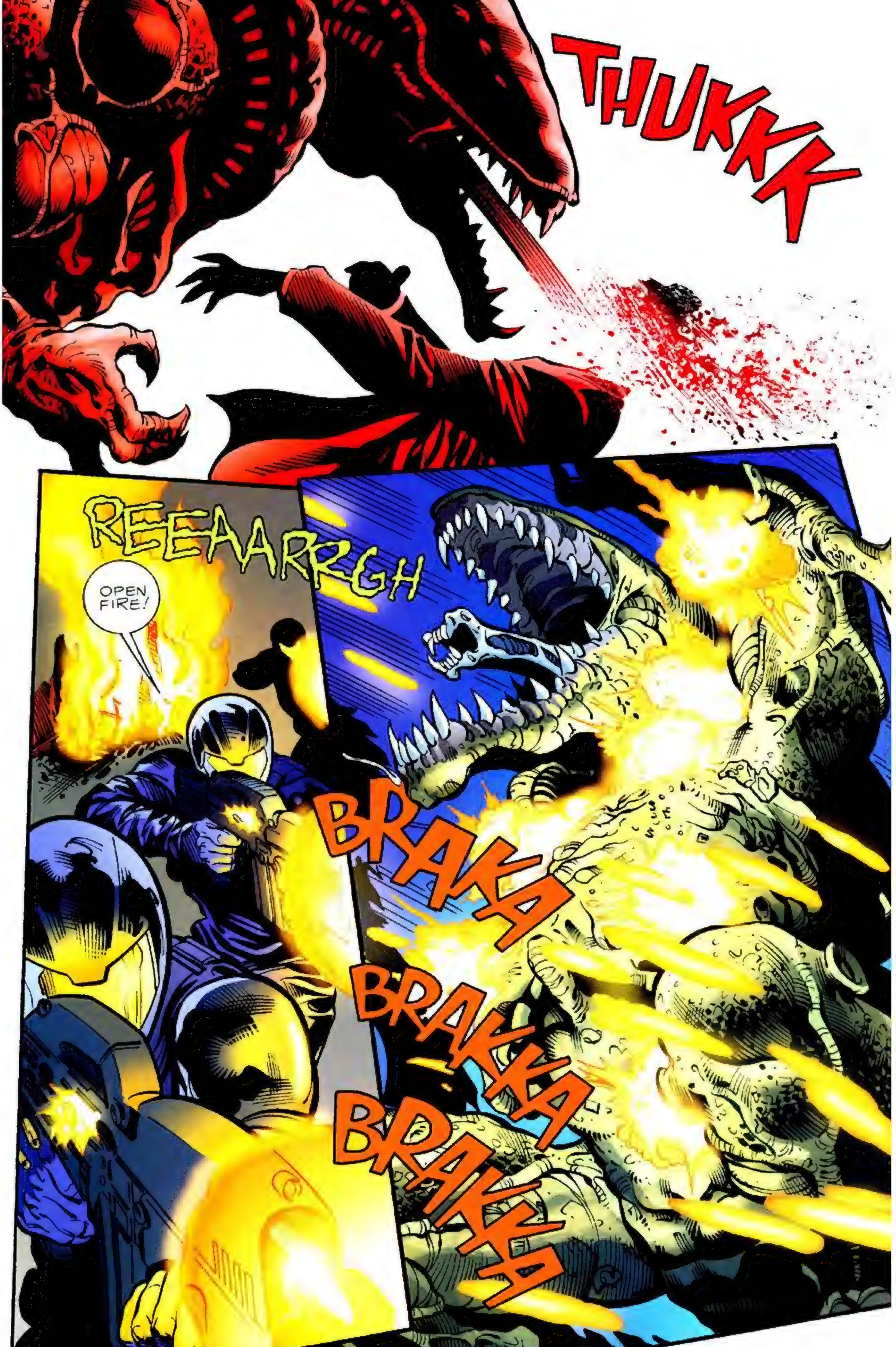

"THE OTHERS WERE DEAD. I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO JOIN THEM.
"I SURVIVED A WEEK ON THE ICE WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER BEFORE A U.S. SCIENCE SURVEY TEAM FOUND ME.
"I'D ENDURED BY FORCE OF WILL ALONE, AND ONE OTHER THING...
"I CARRIED ONE OF THE ALIEN YOUNG INSIDE ME. INEXPLICABLY, IT HAD CHOSEN NOT TO HATCH, BUT HAD THRIVED NEVERTHELESS.
"I REFUSED ALL ATTEMPTS TO REMOVE IT.
"IT REPAID ME IN KIND. I BECAME FASTER, FITTER, STRONGER THAN ANY MAN.
"MY INSTINCTS AND RESPONSES HEIGHTENED. I BECAME THE BEAST, AND IT ME.
"NEEDLESS TO SAY, WITH WAR LOOMING, THE MILITARY TOOK AN INTEREST IN MY CONDITION, AND THE REST IS QUITE LITERALLY HISTORY."

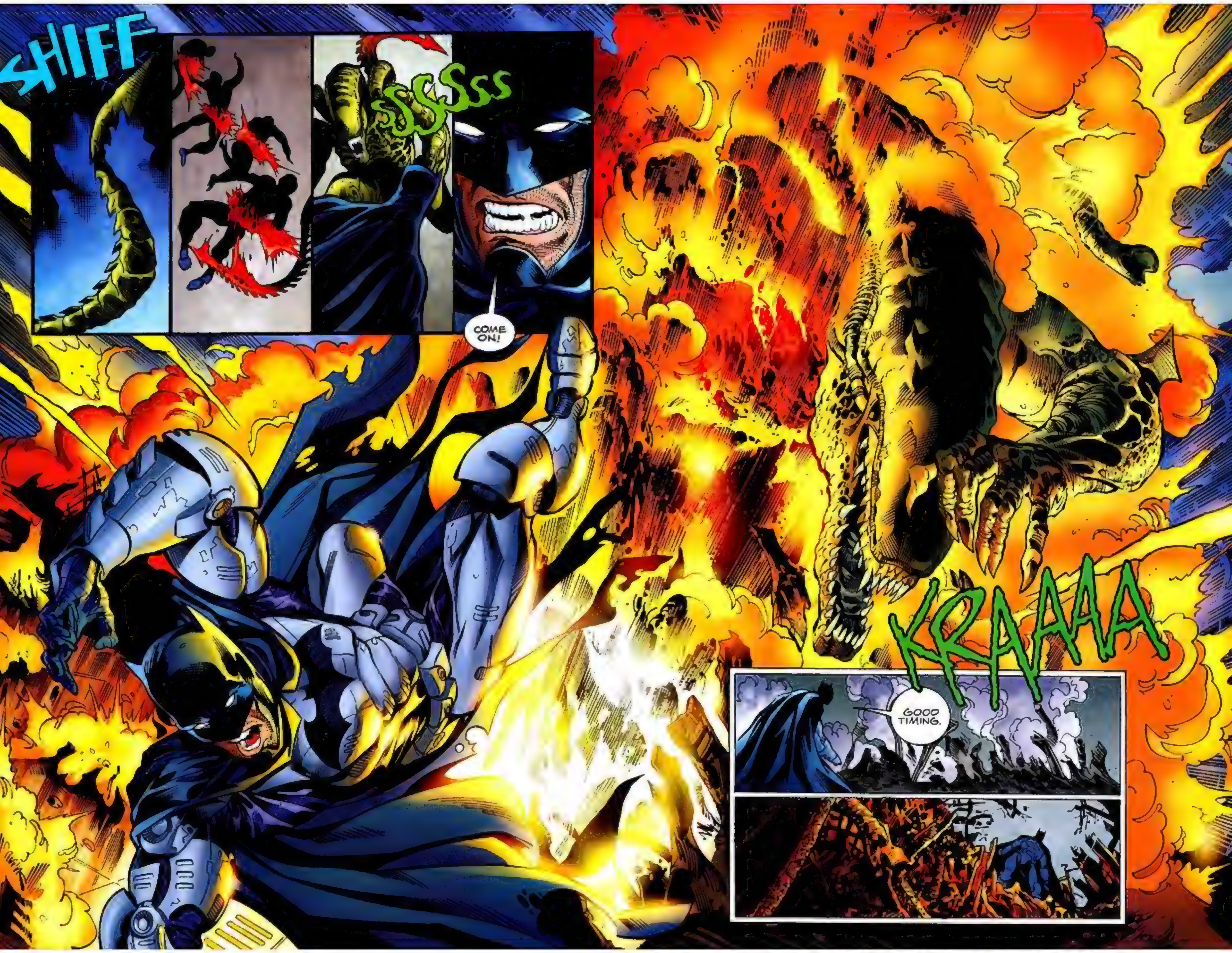

WE SPENT DECADES SEARCHING FOR GOLLANZ, LITTLE REALIZING THAT HE'D GONE TO GROUND, BUT WE HAD OTHER SUCCESSES.
IT TRANSPIRES THAT MY BABY DIDN'T HATCH BECAUSE ITS FINAL GROWTH STAGE WAS RETARDED BY A MILD CASE OF DRY LEPROSY THAT I'D CONTRACTED ON AN EARLIER EXPEDITION.
I EXPERIMENTED USING MY OWN ALTERED D.N.A. THE PROGENY I'VE SINCE CREATED ALL SHOW ME AN INSTINCTIVE DEFERENCE...
NOT SURPRISINGLY, I'VE SINCE DISCOVERED...
...THAT I'M HOST TO A FEMALE ...A *QUEEN!*
AHUHH!
THOOM
AND NOW IT IS ALL RUINED BECAUSE OF YOU!
KILL HIM!

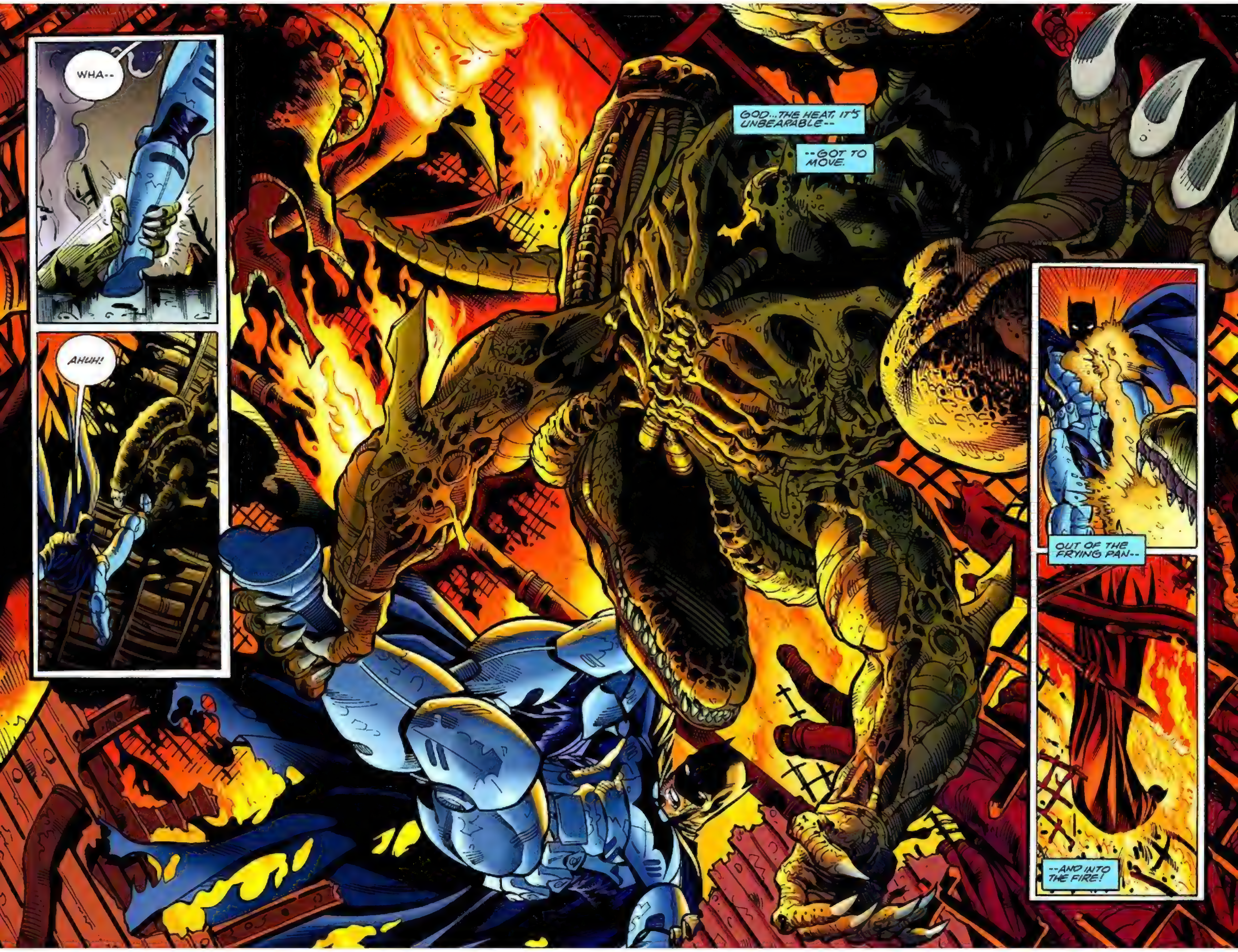

BRAKKA! BRAKKA! BRAKKA!
EXPLOSIVE ROUNDS. ARMOR-PIERCING! GO!
BRAKKA!
NO! NOT THERE! CEASE FIRE! CEASE FIRE!
KREELAGG

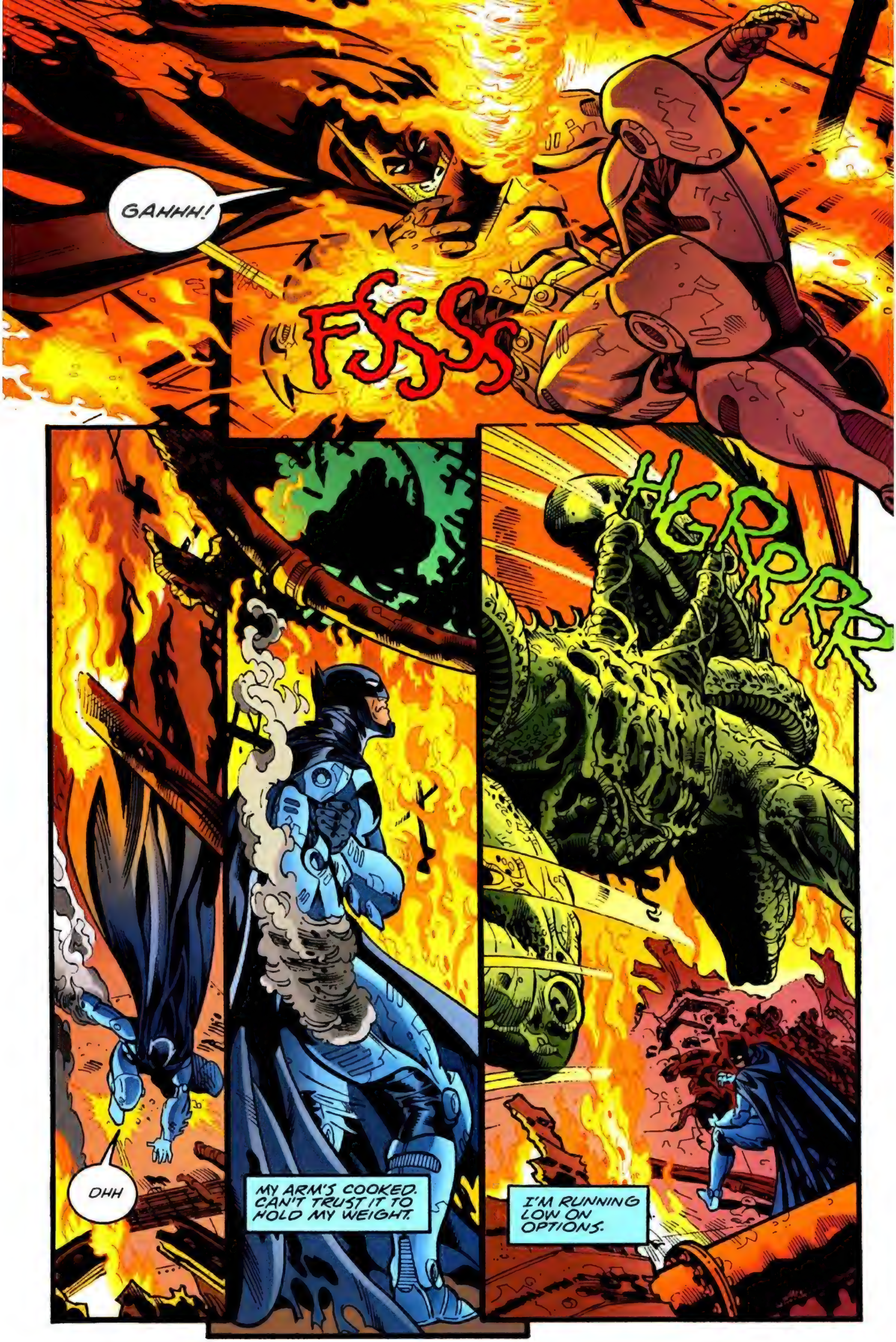

BAM
BAM
BAMM
KHUNNG
HSSSSSSSS
KILLER CROC!
FIRST OF THE NEW BREED.
BRED FROM HIS D.N.A. AND GENETIC MATERIAL SALVAGED FROM THE DEAD ALIENS AT ARKHAM.

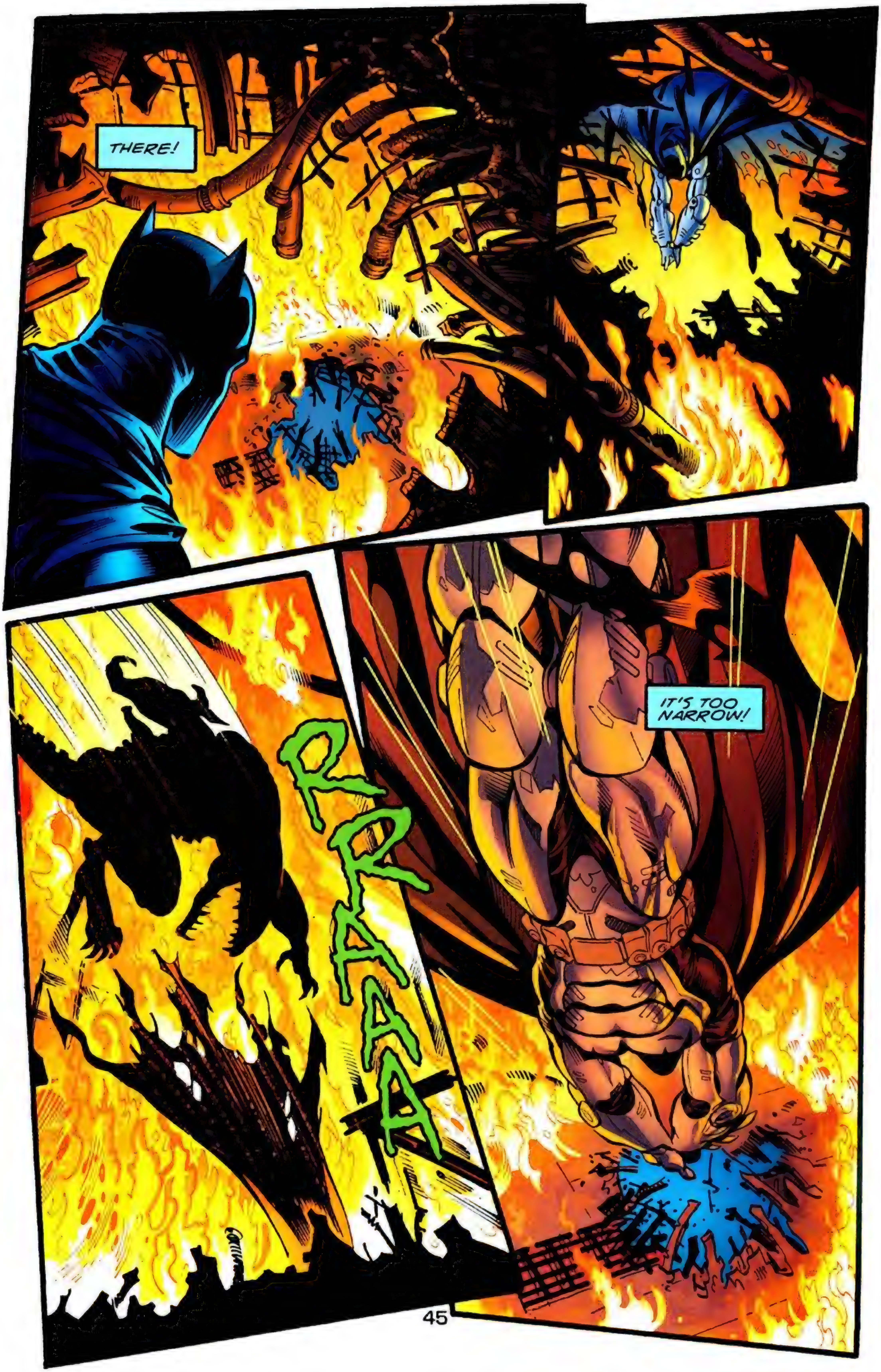

THE MATURATION RATE IS PHENOMENAL. HE'S ONLY A DAY OLD!
GET BACK!
NO, HE MUST IMPRINT ON ME... RECOGNIZE THAT I'M HIS MOTHER, JUST AS ALL THE OTHERS HAVE DONE.
IT ISN'T LIKE THEM. YOU SAID IT YOURSELF... IT DOESN'T POSSESS ANY OF YOUR D.N.A.
CROC WASN'T TRAUMATIZED LIKE DENT AND THE REST. HIS INSTINCTS ARE AS BASE AND PRIMAL AS THEY COME!
NO. YOU'RE WRONG.

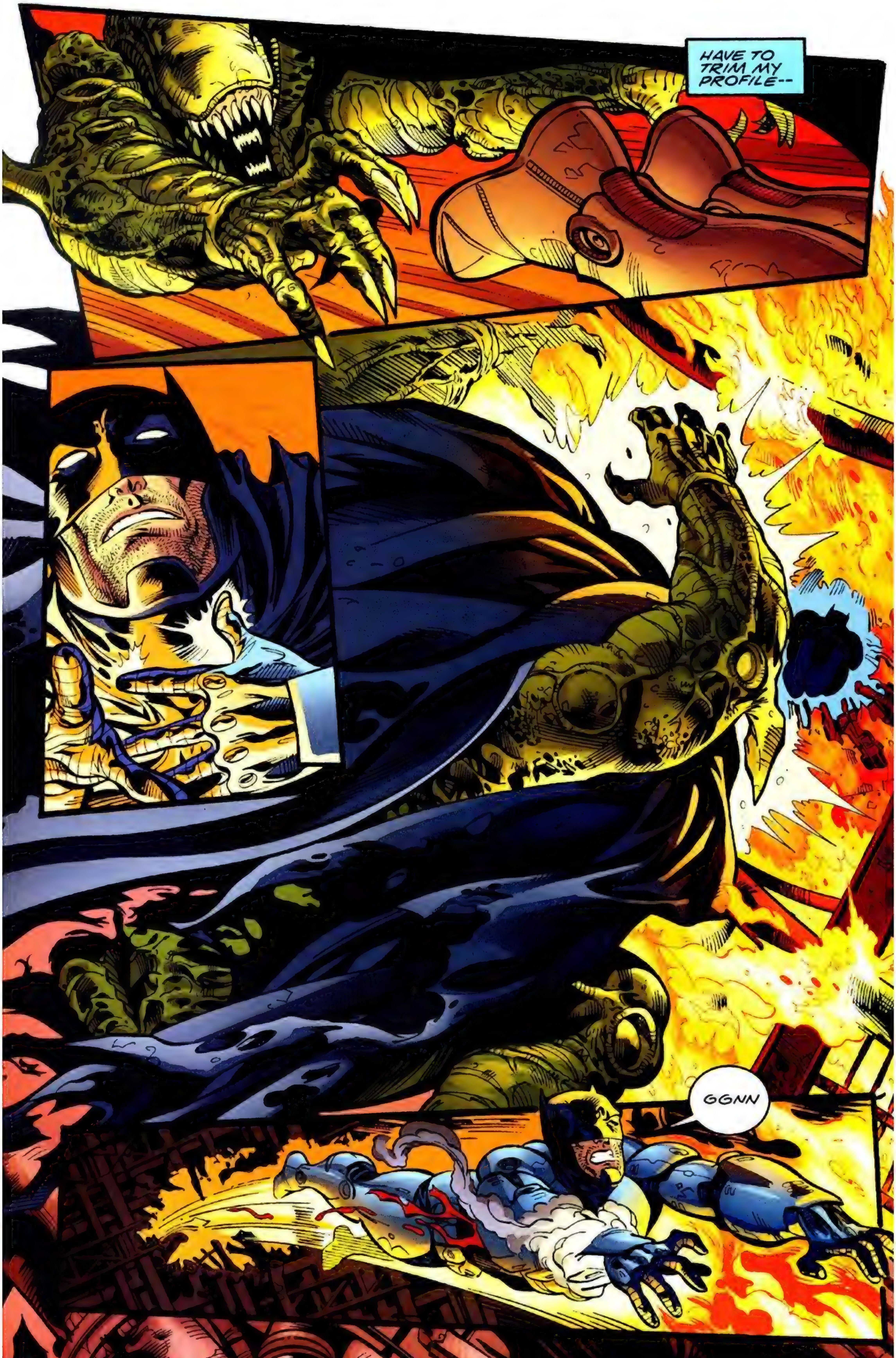

THUKKK
REEAARRRGH
OPEN FIRE!
BRAKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA

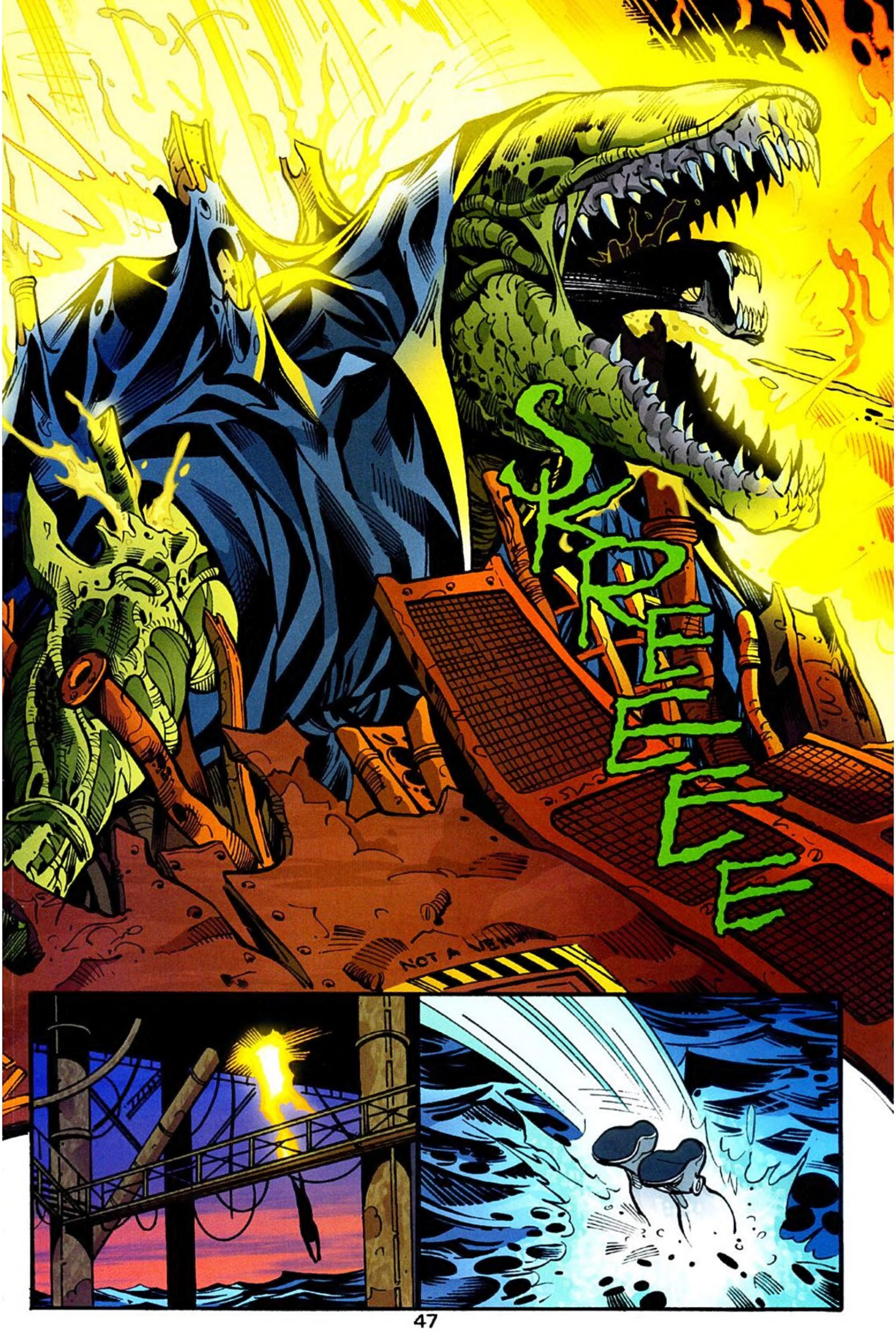

SHIFF
SSSSSS
COME ON!
KRAAAA
GOOD TIMING.

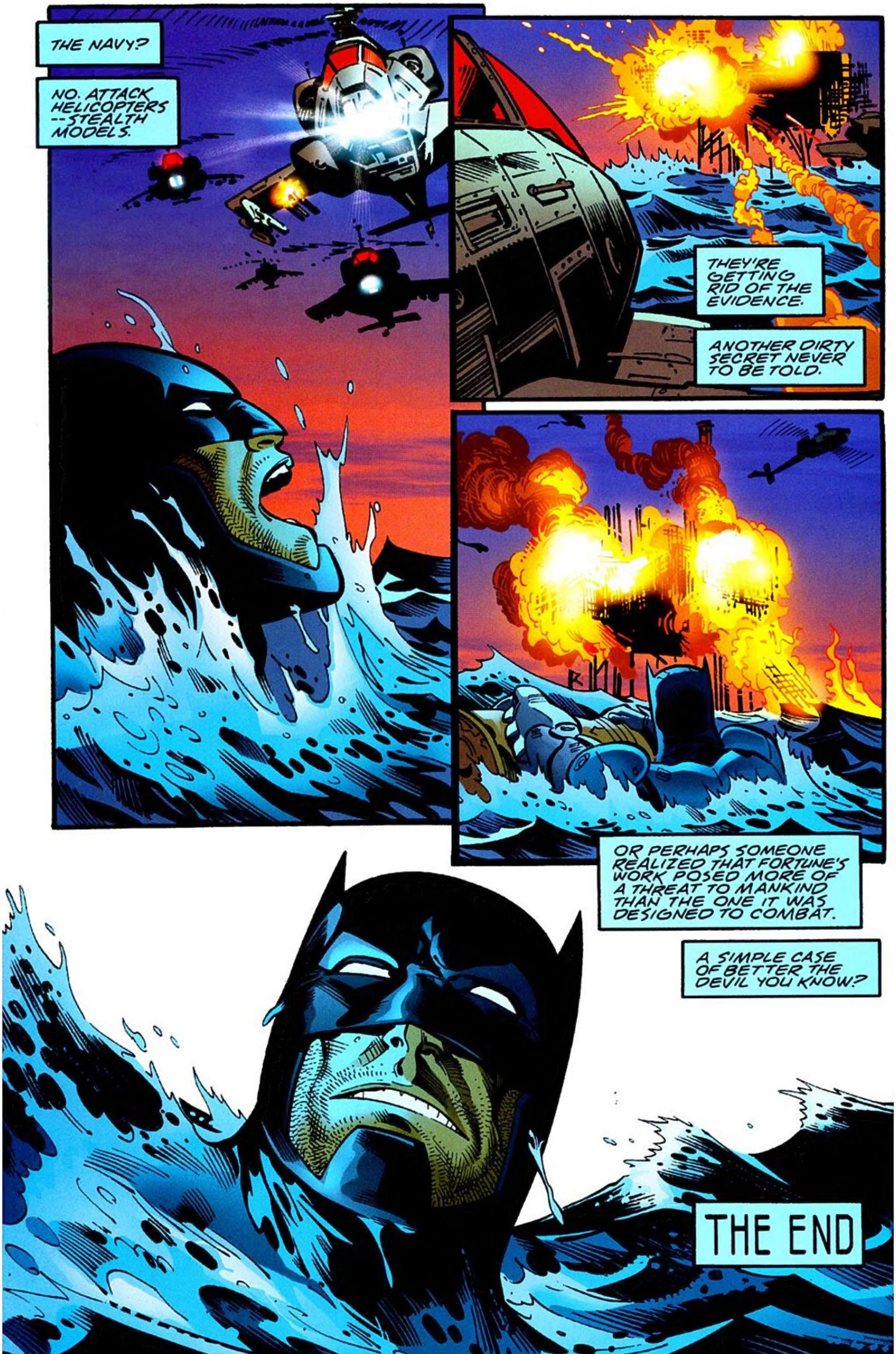

WHA--
AHUH!
GOD...THE HEAT, IT'S UNBEARABLE--
--GOT TO MOVE.
OUT OF THE FRYING PAN--
--AND INTO THE FIRE!

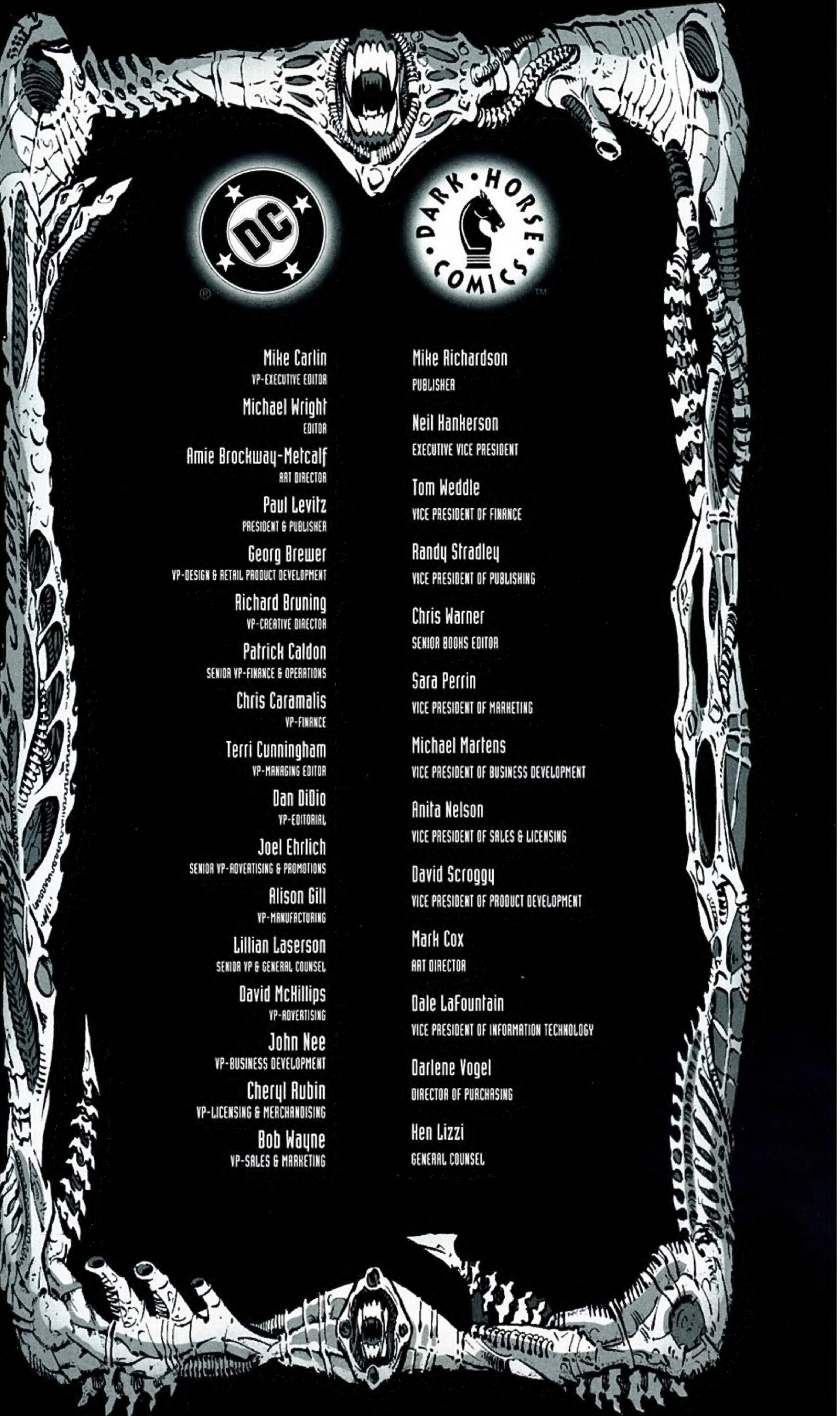

GAHHH!
FSSSS
OHH
MY ARM'S COOKED. CAN'T TRUST IT TO HOLD MY WEIGHT.
HGRRRR
I'M RUNNING LOW ON OPTIONS.


THERE!
RRAAA
IT'S TOO NARROW!


HAVE TO TRIM MY PROFILE--
GGNN


SKREEEE
NOT A VEN


THE NAVY?
NO. ATTACK HELICOPTERS --STEALTH MODELS.
THEY'RE GETTING RID OF THE EVIDENCE.
ANOTHER DIRTY SECRET NEVER TO BE TOLD.
OR PERHAPS SOMEONE REALIZED THAT FORTUNE'S WORK POSED MORE OF A THREAT TO MANKIND THAN THE ONE IT WAS DESIGNED TO COMBAT.
A SIMPLE CASE OF BETTER THE DEVIL YOU KNOW?
THE END



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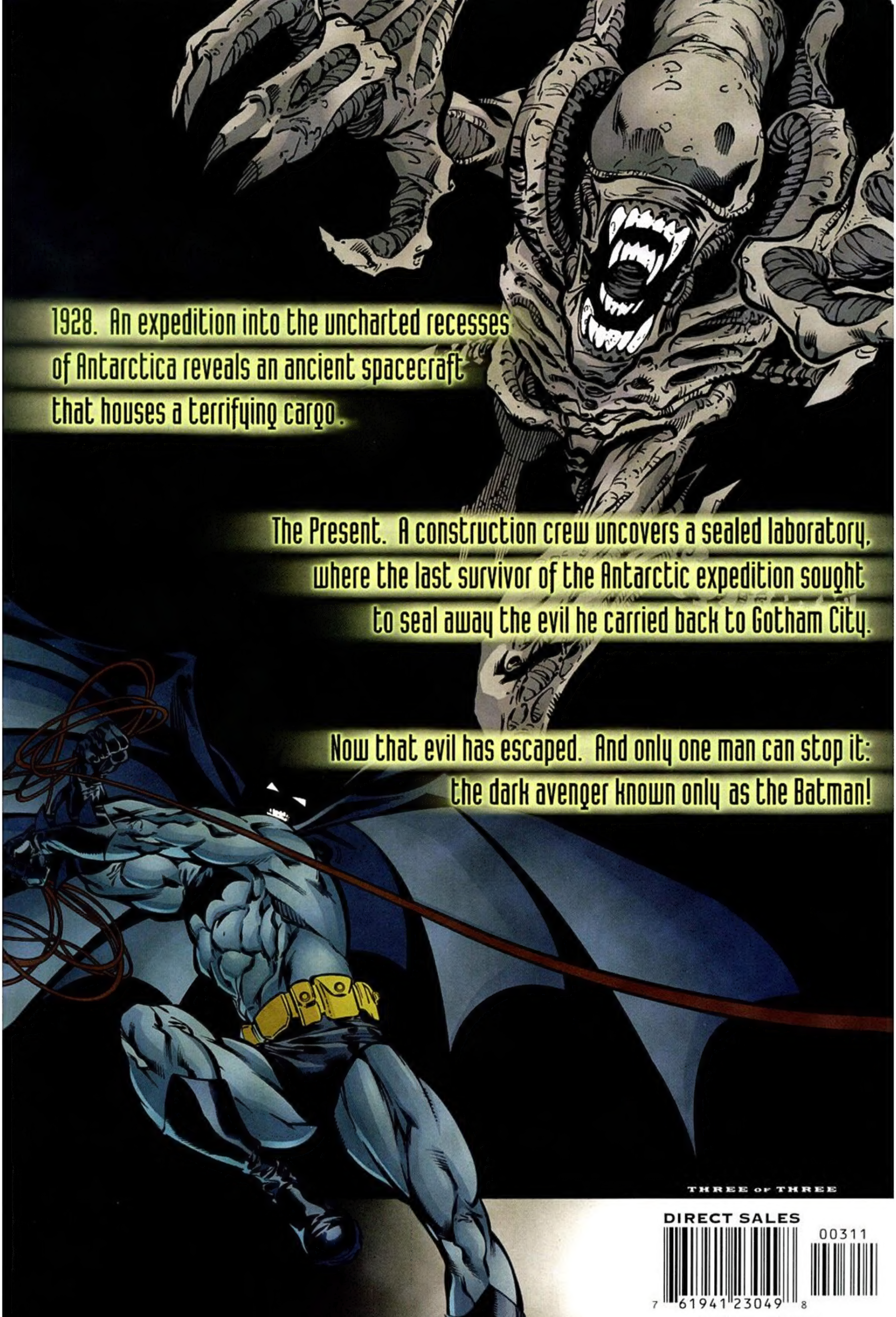

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